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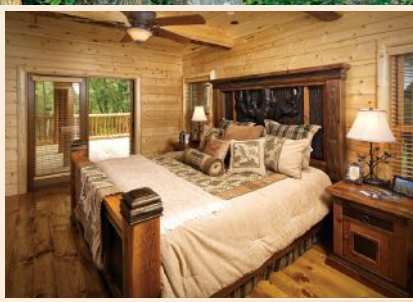
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A waterside hideaway.
PHOTO BY: Joe Hilliard/
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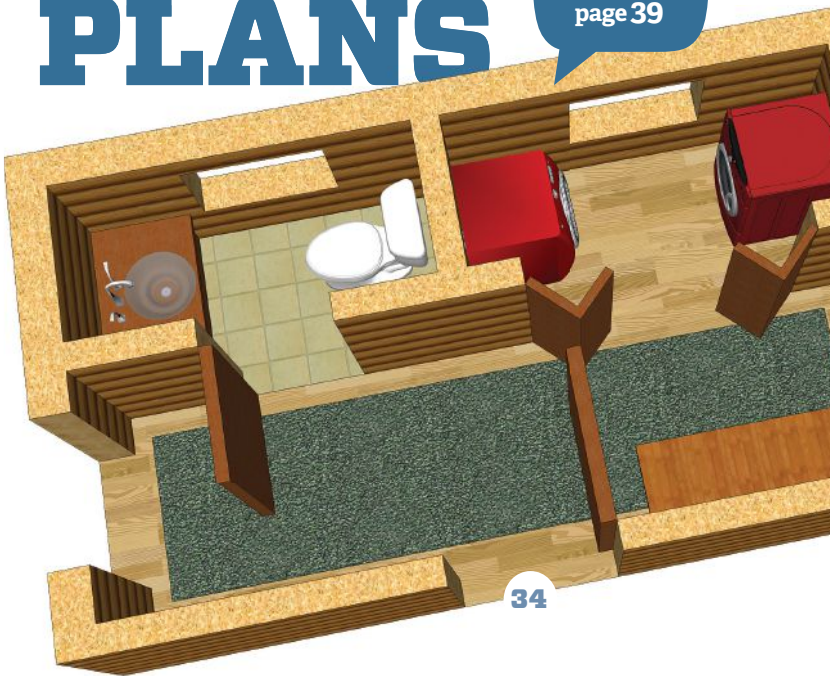


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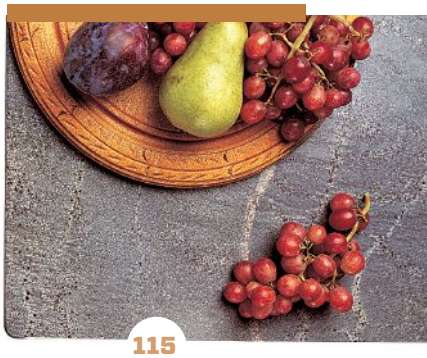
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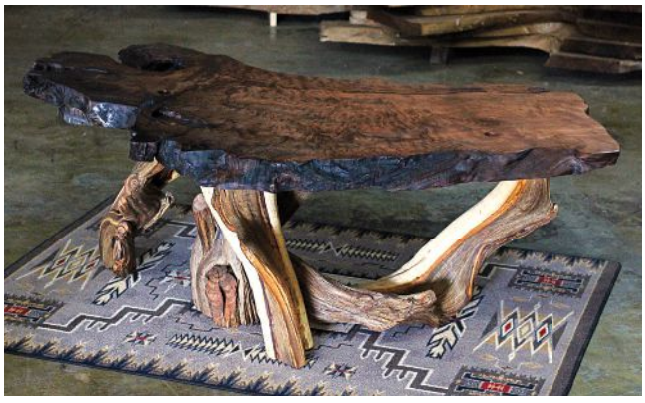
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James Ray Spahn photo

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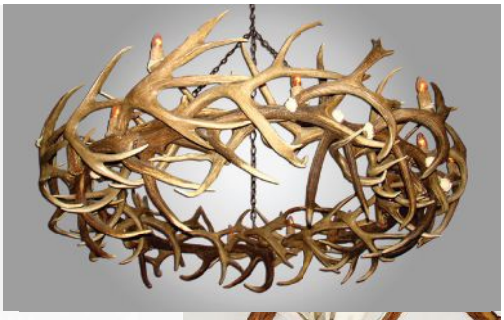
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Editor's LETTER

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REAL REALITY



A friend who sells log homes used to work for a national company whose homes were clearly upscale, both in size and in price. He earned enviable commissions, although sales were sporadic. The housing slump cost him his job, but he recently began working for a company that sells regionally but regularly, mostly small-scale projects. His commissions are lower but steady. His experience underscores the reality of today's log-home market: Small homes are its bread and butter.

How small? Between 1,800 and 2,800 square feet, our surveys say. Some are second homes, mostly weekend cabins. More, however, seem to be homeowners cashing in existing homes' built-up equity to finance long-awaited dream homes as their primary residences. Some spill over into the 3,000-to-4,000-square-foot range, especially for owners who have children at home or welcome grandchildren often. Most added space is bedrooms and baths, not frivolous indulgences.

Now, some folks who aspire to a 1,800-square-foot home may view 4,000 square feet as showing off. I know because a comment I commonly hear is, "Why doesn't your magazine feature more homes for real people? Only rich people can afford your homes."

True, some folks who buy log homes are wealthy. Here's the way I look at it, though. They can afford the very best, and they chose logs. That says a lot about logs.

The other extreme is people who'd love to own a log home but probably never will. Other things get in the way. Or people let them.

In between are those who make a log home their priority. These are the ones buying log homes: real people with commitment to match their passion. Theirs are the homes we feature.

We sometimes do show homes that even we consider over the top, like race-car driver Tony Stewart's 15,000-square-foot showpiece or a $10 million Colorado home as seen on TV's "Timber Kings." We can't resist, mostly because they represent top-notch log construction and, frankly, are amazing to look at. Again, their owners could afford the best, and to them that meant logs.

Rich, poor, smart, stupid, plain or fancy, our readers have a common bond. You love logs. This magazine is intended for all of you. Each issue contains ideas and inspiration to address your aspiration. We also explain the reality of what it takes to attain your goal, regardless of your budget.

That's what my friend the sales rep is doing: helping people's log home happen. Having worked both sides of the street, he says owners of big and small homes share the same joy. All succeeded in making their life's dream come true. That's *Log Home Living*'s reality, too. Every story we tell has a happy ending.

Roland

ROLAND SWEET
Editor-in-Chief

ASK THE EDITOR

Trees are trees, so why aren't all logs alike?

Because people aren't all alike. If they were, we'd all be living in suburban Cookie-Cutter Town. Some of us demand more from life. And in this consumer-driven age, uniqueness is practically our inalienable right. Trees may have round trunks, but that doesn't mean logs made from those trunks have to be round. In fact, logs fall into three categories: round, flat and round-and-flat. Thanks to wood-cutting technology, there are many variations of each.

As you progress along the path to owning a log home, you'll discover many of these variations, especially if you attend a Log and Timber Home Show. You'll find all kinds under one roof. Some companies specialize in one log style; others proudly offer dozens. Add to the shapes a variety of corner styles and log dimensions, and it's easy to find a look that speaks to you. Or difficult, if you like all of them.

Got a question you need answered? Ask away!

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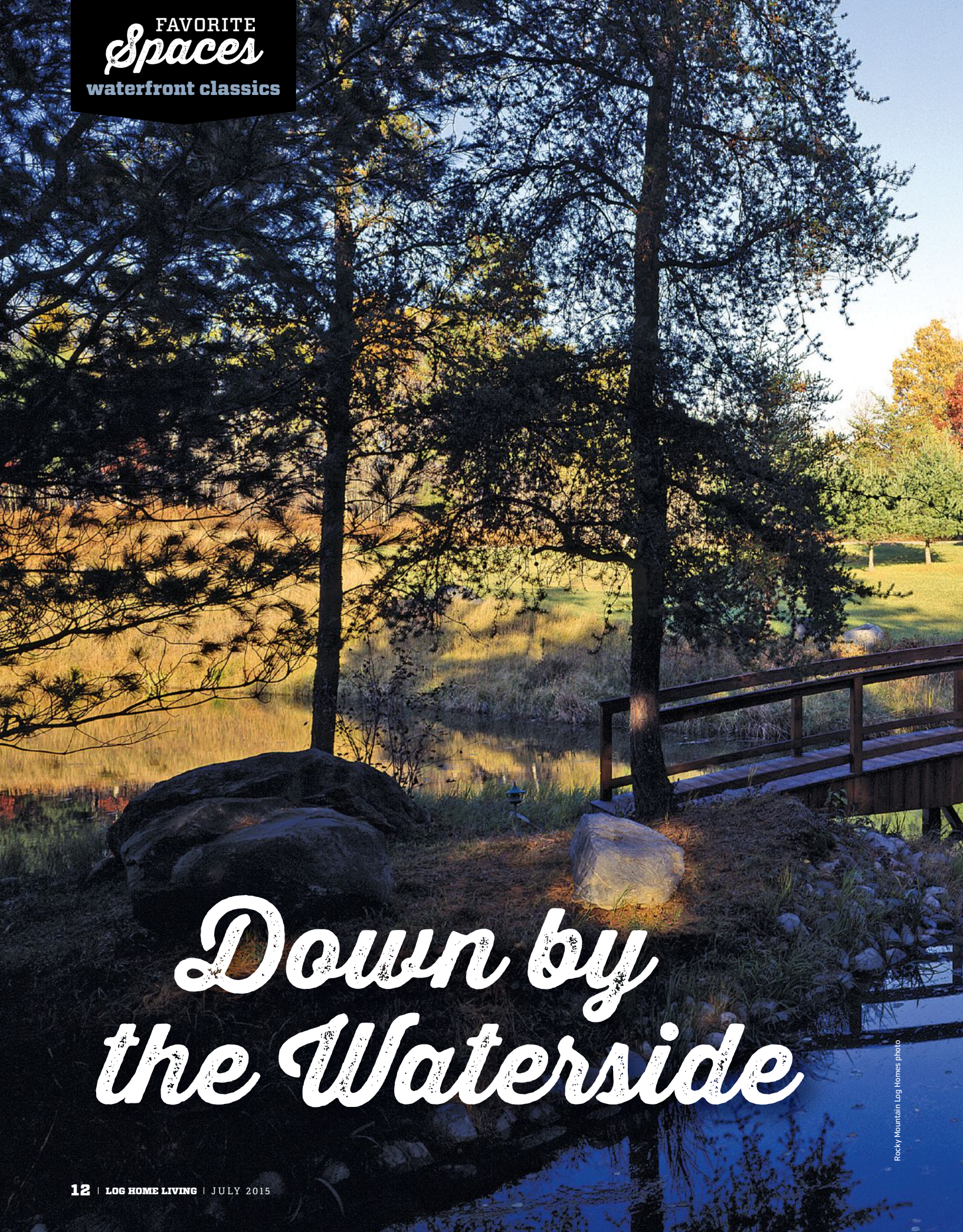
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Down by the Waterside

Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo



Bridge to Somewhere. Shoreline settings enrich the beauty and character of log homes while offering the perfect vista to angle them toward, especially decks and porches.

Of all the popular settings log homes enjoy, water is the most welcoming. Mountains and woods may be wonderful to look at, but only water invites you to join it. Lakes, rivers, even ponds offer refreshing recreation and serenity that make log homes joys to be at and to behold.



Plain and Simple. A lone bench or a shady porch is all you need to enjoy the calming scenery of a passing river. And any log home is sure to catch the eye of boaters.

James Ray Spahn photo



At Water's Edge. Having access to the water is even more pleasant when the home sits among the trees, providing privacy that allows you to orient activity toward the backyard.

Rich Frutchey photo



Whatever Floats Your Boat. When you want a waterside home but there's no water, the obvious solution is to build your own pond, as these homeowners did. That's lots easier to do than building a mountain for a hilltop home.

Pioneer Log Homes photo





Port of Call. Building close to the water brings you a better view, but it's practically an open invitation to passing boats to pop in for a better look at the beauty of your log home.

What's Up, Dock? (right). Waterside settings don't require fancy homes to stand out. The fact that they're log is all that matters. Likewise, you don't need an elaborate platform where you can sit and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Maple Island Log Homes photo



Rapid River Rustic photo

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Square log walls provide the perfect medium for this Prairie Style design. The home exhibits many of the characteristics of Frank Lloyd Wright's signature style, including the use of horizontal lines, flat roofs and deep overhangs. Just one of the many options for creating your ideal Mountain Style Home.

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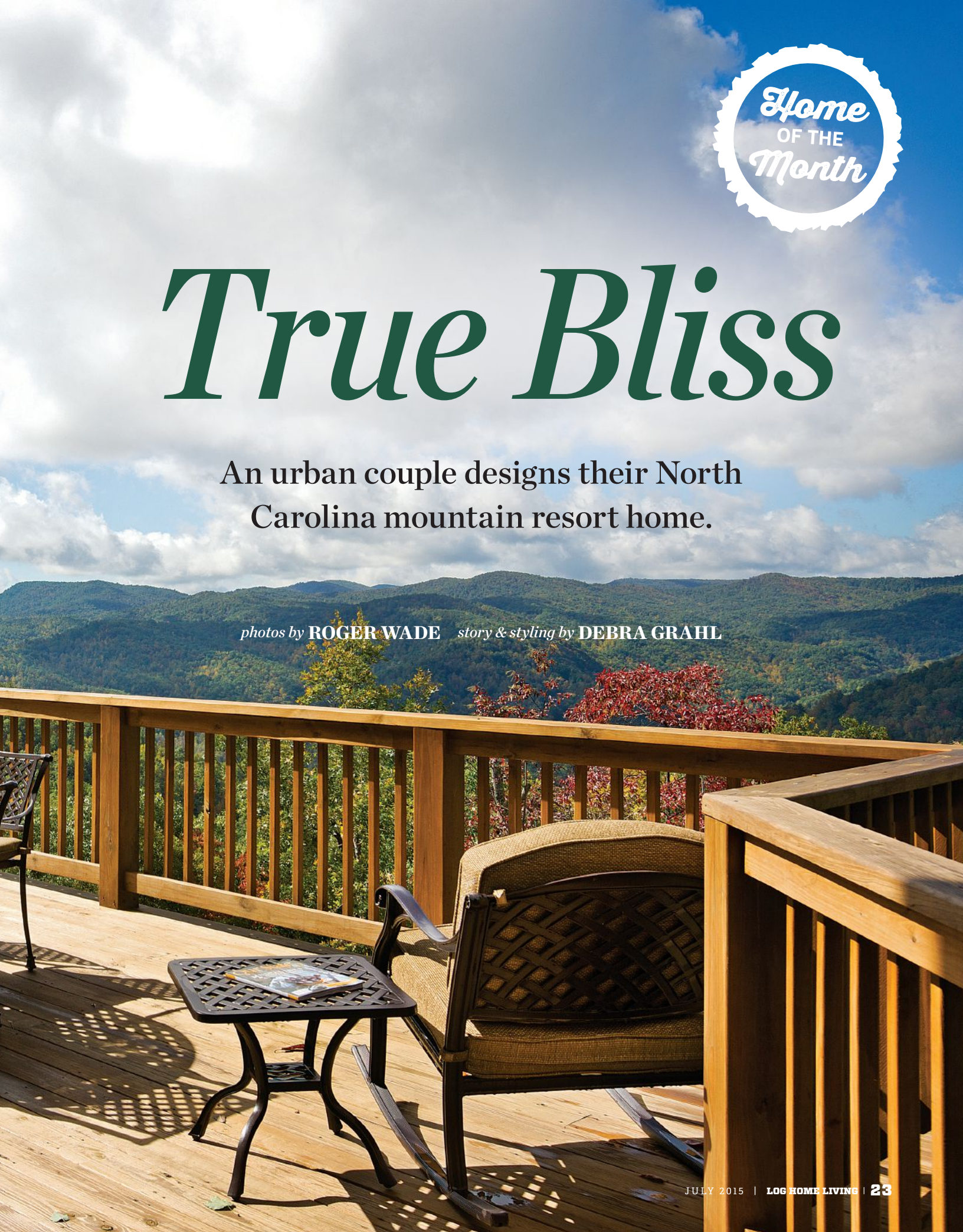
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From their rear deck, constructed of yellow pine and supported by an elaborate timber network (*see page 30*), the homeowners enjoy a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



True Bliss

An urban couple designs their North Carolina mountain resort home.

photos by **ROGER WADE** *story & styling by* **DEBRA GRAHL**



ABOVE: The homeowners chose a standing-seam, high-gauge steel roof to handle the snow loads and add to the home's good looks. Stout post-and-beam construction supports the porte-cochere, which is punctuated by the cast-iron horse sculpture.

OPPOSITE: Hundred-year-old timbers were milled for flooring in the great room. The mix of heart pine, maple, poplar and oak contributes a distinctive patina that complements the tongue-and-groove wall logs. Expansive windows add natural light and provide a breathtaking view.

One visit was all Chuck and Mary Bliss needed to realize Leatherwood Mountains was the perfect community to build a second home. Situated near Boone, Blowing Rock and Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the gated resort spans just under 4,000 acres and offers abundant recreation. The couple bought a 15-acre parcel eyeing the distant Blue Ridge Mountains. "The heavily forested land provides complete privacy from neighboring lots, but, with proper siting and selective clearing, the mountain views are spectacular," Chuck points out.

They determined that a log home would be the natural choice for their property. Leatherwood's Wes Whitson, who represents Log Homes of America (LHA), introduced them to contractor Kevin Troyer, whose 4 Forty Four firm has collaborated on projects with LHA for at least a decade. Ross Napier was assigned as project manager, an especially important role considering the Blisses lived two to three hours away.

Confident they were in good hands, the couple began designing their getaway home. "I was pretty involved in the Bliss project from the get-go," says LHA's Jeremy Bertrand, explaining that he and LHA president Joel Robinson worked closely with Chuck and Mary to design their dream home with LHA's in-house designers.

Bertrand and Whitson showed the couple projects in Leatherwood, as well as the nearby Adler home, based on LHA's Keen plan. Chuck and Mary were pleased that it met their requirements for spacious, open living areas and a main-level master bedroom suite, "so we modified the plan to suit our specific desires," Chuck says. "We wanted each bedroom in the home to be a private suite and have a unique design, or ambience, of its own."

Unique aptly describes the 7,400-square-foot home.





"While the basic plan developed from our standard Keen model and visits to the Adler home, Mary and Chuck really spiced it up with attention to universal design, energy efficiency and a focus on entertaining," Bertrand says. "Let's put it this way: The Bliss file wins the 'thickness contest' here in our office filing cabinets."

The Blisses' aim was to create out-of-the-ordinary architectural features. "The stairs are 'floating,'" Chuck explains. "We have Juliet balconies. Ross implemented the construction techniques to make these ideas work for us. And there is a rooftop garden, or 'living roof,' over the screened porch, where native species are grown using xeriscaping principles."

The garden is accessed from a top-floor guest bedroom. A timber frame supports the garden roof, which is lined with a waterproof membrane and filled with a lightweight soil mix. Irrigation and drainage systems are built into the garden, which can host plant species with a root depth of one foot. "The family can have a small flower and vegetable garden there, without concern that the abundant deer population will get to it," Napier says.

The couple's priority was a home with minimal visual disruptions,





ABOVE: Saddle-topped bar stools cozy up to the kitchen island, made from reclaimed barn wood and topped with Brazilian ubatuba granite, sandblasted to give it a leathered finish.

TOP RIGHT: Upholstered fabric and leather chairs surround a cherry farm table in the dining room.

keeping nature the center of attention. "We really enjoy the outdoors and proximity of nature at Leatherwood," Mary explains. "Chuck and I wanted to bring the outdoors in, with expanses of glass that capture the view." To this end, the great room was enhanced with a prow gable to allow an increased radius of views from where the homeowners and guests spend the most time.

The engineering of the house was an important part of what Log Homes of America provided, such as establishing the span tables to achieve the desired open spaces. "The home is a perfect blend of structural materials," 4 Forty Four's Troyer says. "The walls are built with 8-inch logs, and heavy timber post-and-beam framing supports the roof structure. SIPs (structural insulated panels) span the distance between the rafters, covering the tongue-and-groove ceilings, further increasing the stability of the house and its thermal insulation."

The homeowners used natural building materials, such as reclaimed wood, granite countertops and a stone fireplace, all of which matched Leatherwood's rustic tone. Troyer credits a network of people that take down old barns and other structures to supply materials. "Utilizing reclaimed materials is not an exact science, like ordering dimensional wood from a lumberyard," he says. "There is a lot of collaborating that goes on to pull it all together."

Chuck and Mary also made purchasing American-made products a high priority. "If the Blisses found an international product that they liked, they would ask for comparisons in America and almost always make a decision towards the American-made product," Napier notes.

Whenever possible, Chuck and Mary commissioned local craftsmen. "These mountains have a lot of talented people living in them," says Troyer. "You get to know them and their specialties over the years, always looking at how to integrate their work into your own projects."

The house is positioned for optimal passive solar gain. The heating and cooling system implements a maximum efficiency air-to-air heat pump. Solar thermal panels on the roof provide BTUs that are introduced into a duct system and distributed throughout the home for supplemental hot water and baseboard heat. "There are provisions for a future photovoltaic system to create electricity," Chuck says, "and the house is plumbed for reuse of rainwater and gray water."


1


2


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4

HOME DETAILS

Square Footage: 7,400

Log Provider: Log Homes of America
(800-564-8496, loghomesofamerica.com)

Contractor: 4 Forty Four
(828-295-8929, 4fortyfour.com)

floor plan



UPPER LEVEL

The loft (*seen in No. 4, bottom left*) showcases the timber ceiling, which is supported by a large yellow cedar post.

Both upstairs bedrooms not only have their own bathrooms and walk-in closets, but also enjoy ample storage space.



MAIN LEVEL

The library area in the great room features a window seat for reading and shares convenient access to the side deck with the kitchen.

French doors and large, double-hung windows illuminate the western-themed master bedroom.





Building on a sloping lot allowed the homeowners to add a walkout basement, which features mountain views, and accommodates a family room and bar area.

The goal of eventually retiring to Leatherwood Mountains led the Blisses to incorporate elements of universal design. Doors are 36 inches wide to accommodate wheelchair passage if needed. They also allocated space for an elevator shaft for easy transport between the home's three floors at some point down the road.

Mary and Chuck furnished the house themselves. "We searched high and low for cool rustic furnishings," Mary tells, "and were able to find some amazing furniture and accessories made locally." A majestic elk antler chandelier is suspended above the fireplace seating area of the great room. A diversity of original artwork includes bronze and metal sculptures, oil paintings and fine silk embroidered textiles. A life-sized cast iron horse poses outdoors, a handsome sentinel welcoming guests at the front entry's porte-cochere.

Spending time at their mountain home during all four seasons, Chuck and Mary frequently entertain friends for long weekends at Leatherwood. When they aren't using it, they rent it out. "Mary and I love sharing this place with others," Chuck says. "It's a great spot for people to relax, unwind and enjoy themselves."

With retirement still on the horizon, Chuck and Mary are content with special getaways to the mountains. "Each time we arrive," Chuck says, "we feel every bit as excited as the first time we set eyes on our property. It's a magical place that we will never tire of or ever take for granted."

Will your log home look this great in 10 years?

Capture the Moment

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Home of Gary & Robin, CA
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Photo: ©2011 Brett Christenson/Photographer

Your log home will be the backdrop for so many moments in the years to come, so choose a staining system that's up to the task. Capture® log stain and Cascade® clear coat combine unmatched durability and easy maintenance for years of memory-worthy beauty.



Gary & Robin's Story (Their home shown above)

The best years of my life have been with friends and family in the mountains of Southern California. A world away in just a couple hours. Leaving behind the hustle and bustle of the city, you're among the trees, animals, blue sky, and fresh air. I got this love of the outdoors from my dad. He had an old cabin right by Lake Arrowhead on the edge of the National Forest....

For the rest of *Gary & Robin's Story*
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Jason & Liza



Mike & Tricia



Jackie & Warren

34

OUTDOOR LOVING

The Says desire a country home that had pastoral views and accommodated Jayson's work-from-home career.

36

WARM WELCOME

The Rickettses dream of a Texas woodland home that greets guests with plenty of room to make them feel right at home.

38

TIMELESS LOOK

The Jacobsons are building on land that's been in Warren's family since 1786 and want a home that suits the site.

PLUS: A 12-page gallery of popular floor plans

A Dream Home with a View



Jason & Liza

With a site on the farm property in northwest Pennsylvania where he grew up, Jason Say and his wife Liza decided it was time to build their dream log home. An avid outdoorsman, Jason wanted a home to reflect his lifestyle and accommodate his work from home as founder of Wired Outdoors.

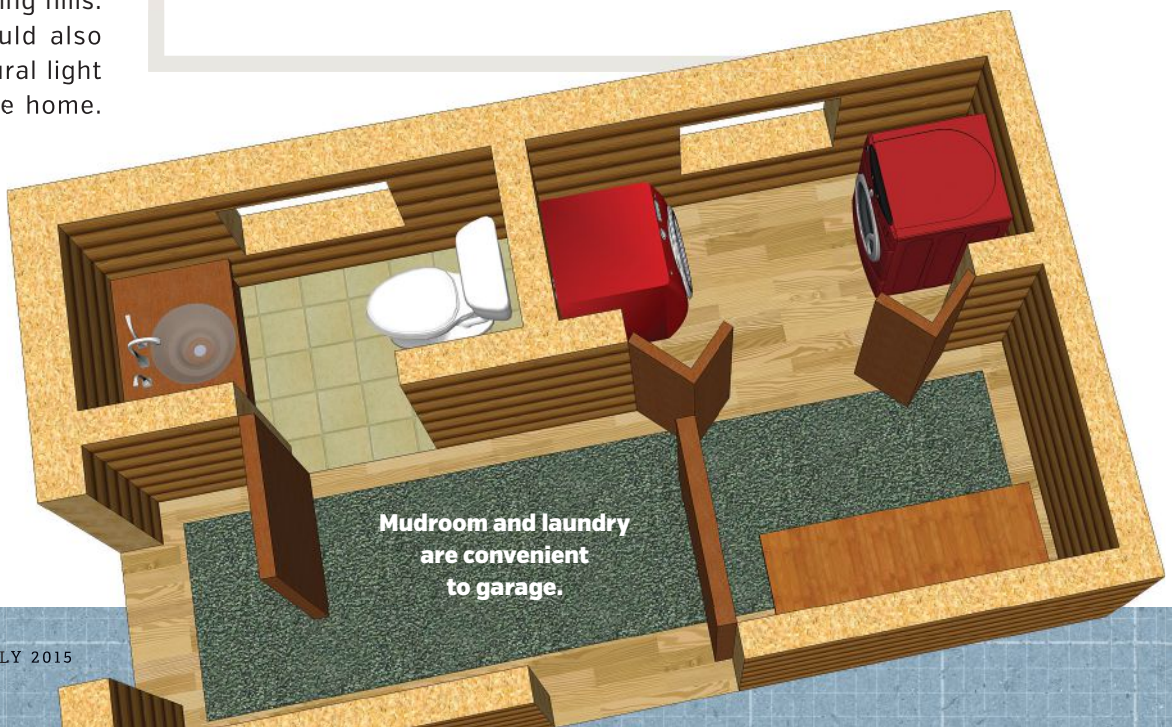
Why a wood home: "We just love the look of logs; they're absolutely beautiful," says Jason, who grew up dreaming of a log home. The Says were specifically attracted to larger, round logs.

Most important features: The Says' hillside lot needed plenty of windows to capture an expansive view out over the neighboring hills. The windows would also give Liza the natural light she craved for the home. They both wanted an open floor plan and large rooms for their children, who had been moved several times to rental houses as the log home was being built.

The Inside Scoop

The Says' first home plan met all their needs – but came in at 3,300 square feet, a size that didn't fit their budget. They worked with Jack Mundy to trim the plan down to 2,400 square feet while still giving them a home they would love. Mundy offers these tips for keeping your home size realistic:

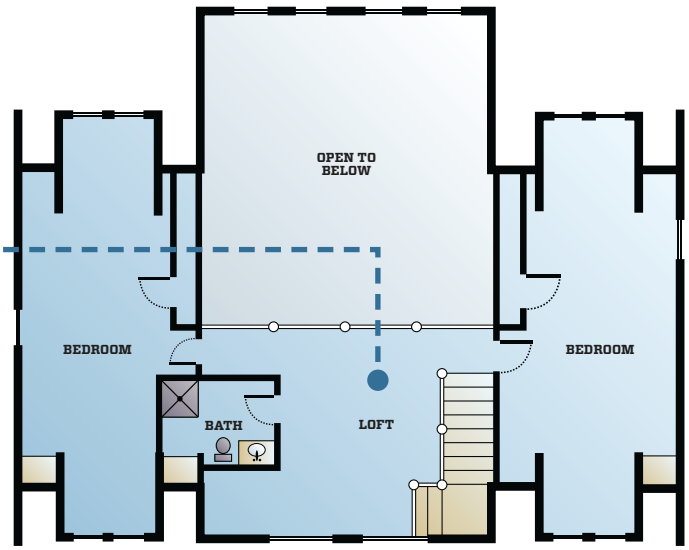
- **KNOW WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD.** Working with a designer without having a set budget wastes time. "Our objective is to build something they can afford and enjoy," Mundy says about his company's clients. Be honest with your designer about what you will spend.
- **KEEP THE PROPORTIONS.** If a plan is too large overall, Mundy suggests shrinking it down proportionally to maintain your preferred overall exterior look. If you like a home with two symmetrical wings off a central great room, for example, you should size all of the spaces down, instead of just lopping off one wing to save on space.
- **SIZE RELATES TO COST—TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.** You'll hear the cost of a home estimated on a per-square-foot basis. Keep in mind that some items (such as the cost of appliances and fireplace you've selected) remain fixed, no matter what size home you design. Cutting your home's size in half won't cut costs in half, but it would decrease the total price of the home.



Mudroom and laundry are convenient to garage.

PLAN SPECS

Square Footage: 2,400
Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 2.5



Loft provides space for kids to hang out.

Upper Level

The Lowdown

Jason and Liza worked with Jack Mundy at Estemerwalt Log Homes to design a home that would take advantage of their sloped site and have the full-round logs they preferred. A walk-out basement provides office and meeting space, as well as room for family entertaining. Upstairs, the main level is wide open and light-filled.

Wide-open great room offers good flow.

Large deck looks out over the view.

Fireplace warms the living area, which opens onto the deck.

Mudroom and laundry are convenient to garage.



Master bath offers a luxury corner tub.

Main Level

Space to Spread Out

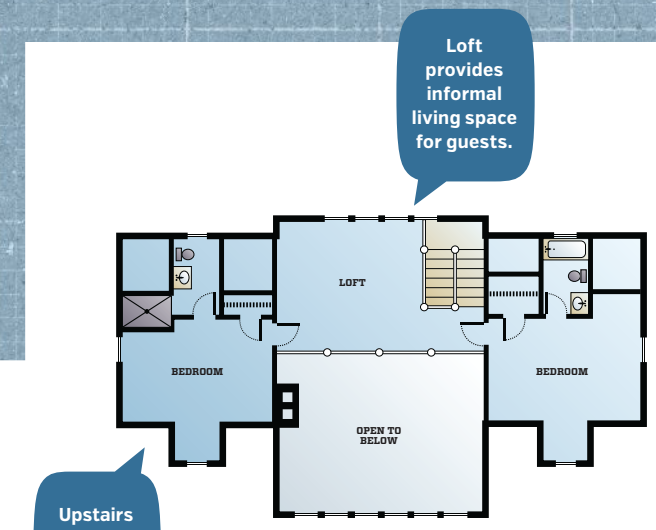
For their acreage in Texas, Mike and Tricia Ricketts envisioned a classic Texas ranch-style home that felt warm and welcoming – and had plenty of appeal when seen from their curving driveway through the woods.

Why a log home: "My brother owns a log home," Tricia says. "We watched it from the ground up." After seeing his home go from dream to reality, the Rickettses made plans to build one, too. They and Tricia's brother have even created a log-home community on their shared land and now offer home sites for sale.



Mike & Tricia

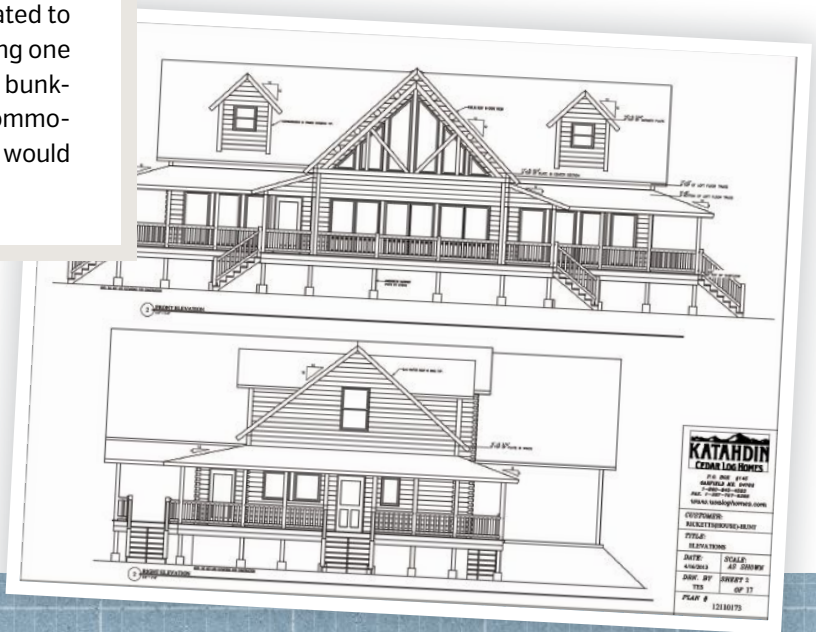
Most important features: Tricia and Mike wanted a downstairs master bedroom in their home, along with two separate guest suites upstairs. Not having to share an upstairs bath provides privacy when guests aren't related to each other. Setting one bedroom up as a bunkroom would accommodate visiting children. Floor-to-ceiling windows would provide a view of the lake just outdoors.



Upper Level



Main Level



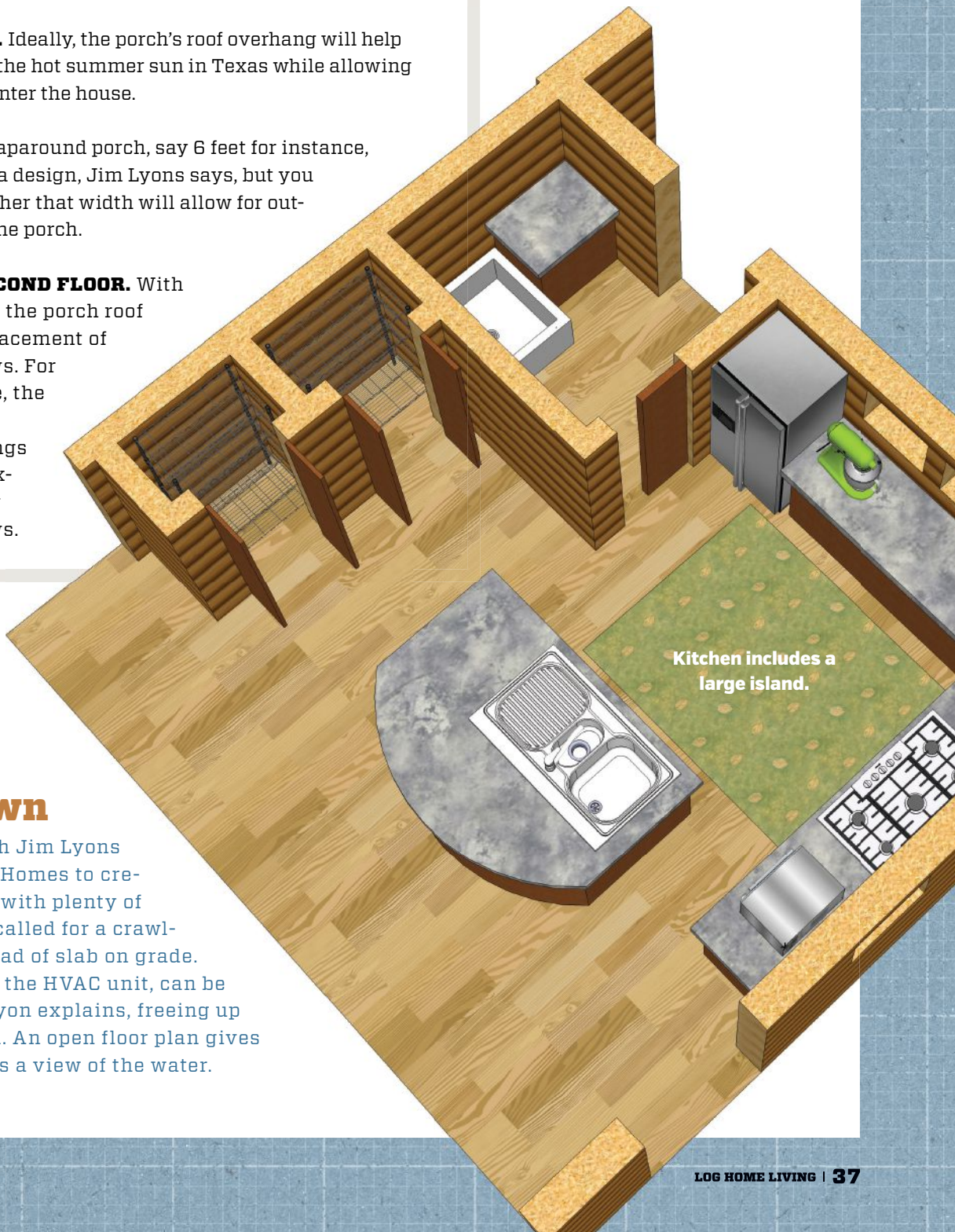
The Inside Scoop

Mike and Tricia wanted a wraparound porch to give the home an expansive look. That type of porch has the added benefit of protecting the log walls from the elements. If you like the look of a wraparound porch, keep these factors in mind:

- **ACCESS.** The Rickettses' plan includes plenty of doors that open out to the porch. If there were just one or two access points from inside the home, it would be a long walk from a door to some parts of the porch.
- **SIZE OF OVERHANG.** Ideally, the porch's roof overhang will help shield windows from the hot summer sun in Texas while allowing lower winter light to enter the house.
- **WIDTH.** A narrow wraparound porch, say 6 feet for instance, is easier to work into a design, Jim Lyons says, but you should consider whether that width will allow for outdoor furnishings on the porch.
- **EFFECT ON THE SECOND FLOOR.** With a wraparound porch, the porch roof can interfere with placement of second-floor windows. For the Rickettses' home, the increased height of their first floor ceilings allowed for more flexibility in positioning second-floor windows.

PLAN SPECS

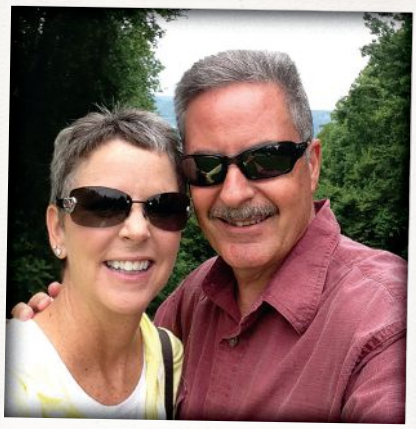
Square Footage: 3,000
Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 3.5



The Lowdown

The couple worked with Jim Lyons at Katahdin Cedar Log Homes to create a welcoming home with plenty of curb appeal. The plan called for a crawlspace foundation instead of slab on grade. Utility equipment, like the HVAC unit, can be placed in that space, Lyon explains, freeing up room on the main level. An open floor plan gives the home's public areas a view of the water.

Writing a New Chapter in Family History



Jackie & Warren

After years of searching, researching and reading, Jackie and Warren Jacobson are putting the finishing touches on their log home in Jackson County, Tennessee. With land that's been in Warren's family since 1786, the couple wanted a home that would look timeless.

Why a log home: "This property called for a log home," Warren says. Specifically, the couple set their hearts on a square-log home that would look like it belongs in this area of Appalachia.

Most important features: The Jacobsons want their home to welcome extended family and friends, while still feeling homey when it's just the two of them. They look forward to hosting older relatives and taking advantage of their sloping site that overlooks the Cumberland River in the distance.

PLAN SPECS

Square Footage:
3,400
Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 3

The Lowdown

The couple was drawn to the Madison, a stock plan offered by Honest Abe Log Homes. Michael Hix from Honest Abe worked with Jackie and Warren to make the plan just right for them. The open central great room with its exposed timber beams stayed, but the plan was enlarged. Planning for a walkout level provided space for a well-appointed bedroom that could serve as a mother-in-law suite.



Main Level

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Cimarron Mountain Retreat

This classic Appalachian style home with an open, modern floor plan offers a first floor master suite with ample storage, loft area and two upstairs bedrooms complete the design. Spacious outdoor living area, with fireplace and two covered porches bring the great outdoors to every occasion.



Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2.5
Square Footage: 2,082

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11320 Stations West Drive, Suite 102
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First Floor



Second Floor

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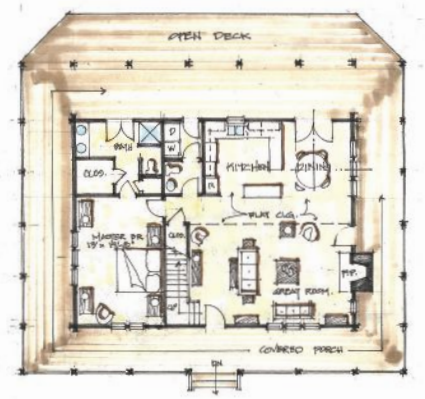
House Mountain

You'll be delighted by the expansive porch that wraps around this entire home. The open concept great room with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen and dining area as well as a spacious master suite are designed for ease of living. Upstairs you'll find a cozy loft and 2 bedrooms and bathrooms, so there's space to accommodate everyone.



Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 3.5
Square Footage: 2,464

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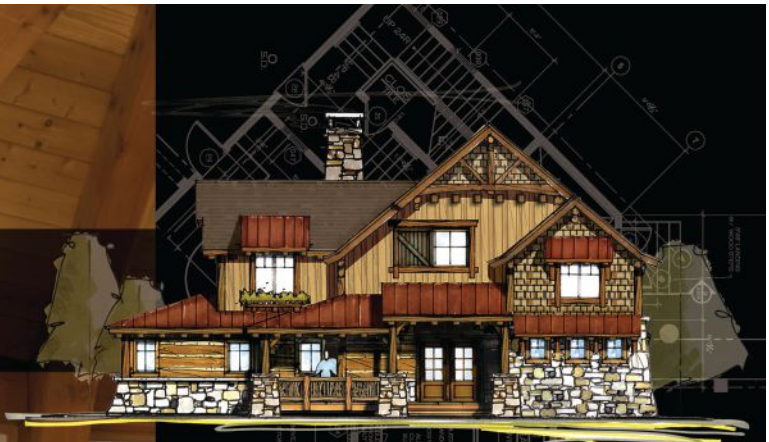


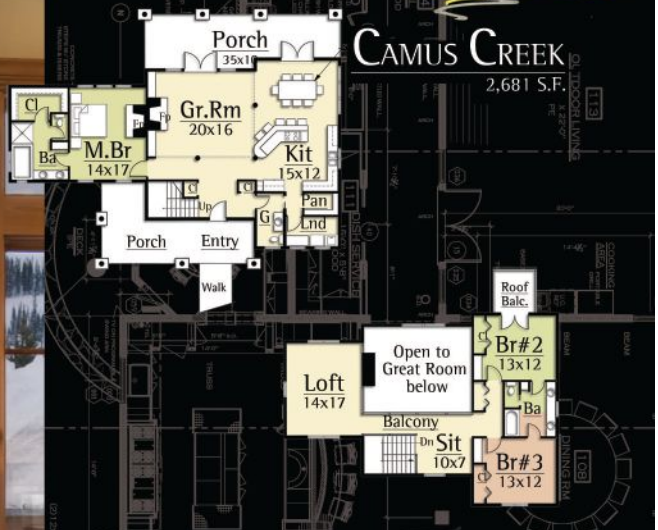
First Floor



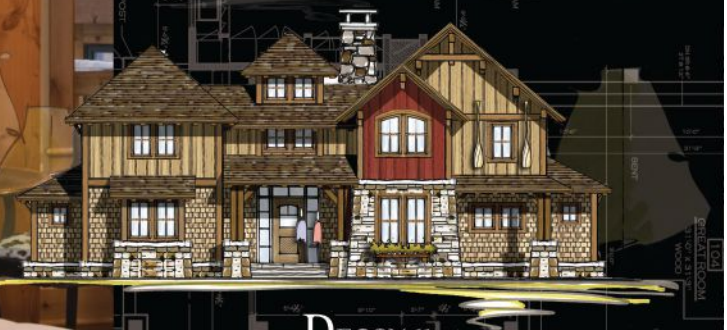
Second Floor

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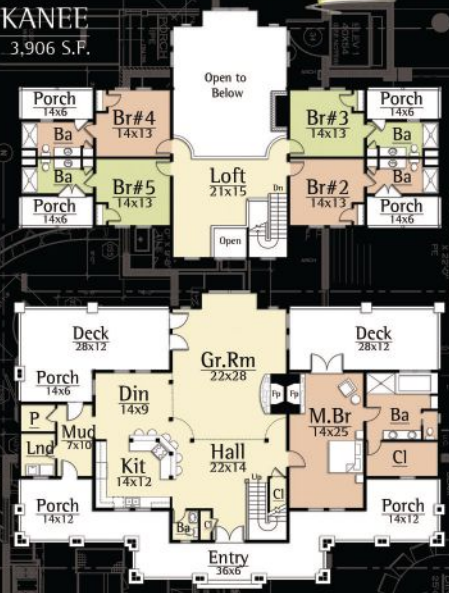
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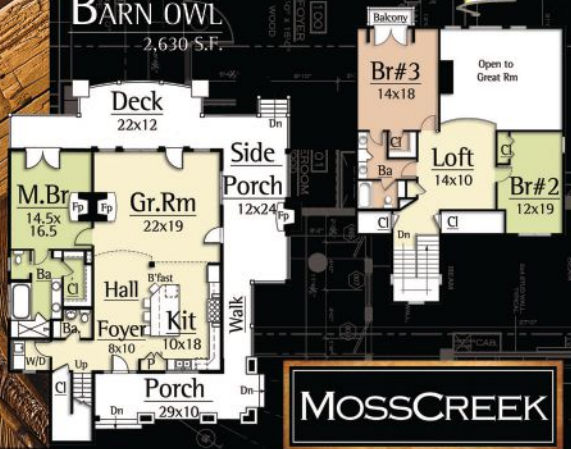


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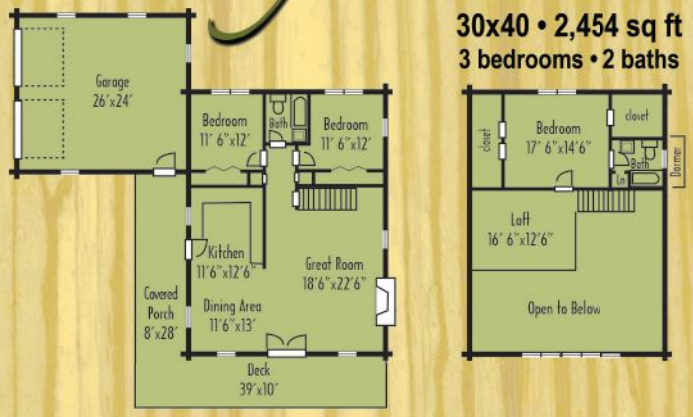
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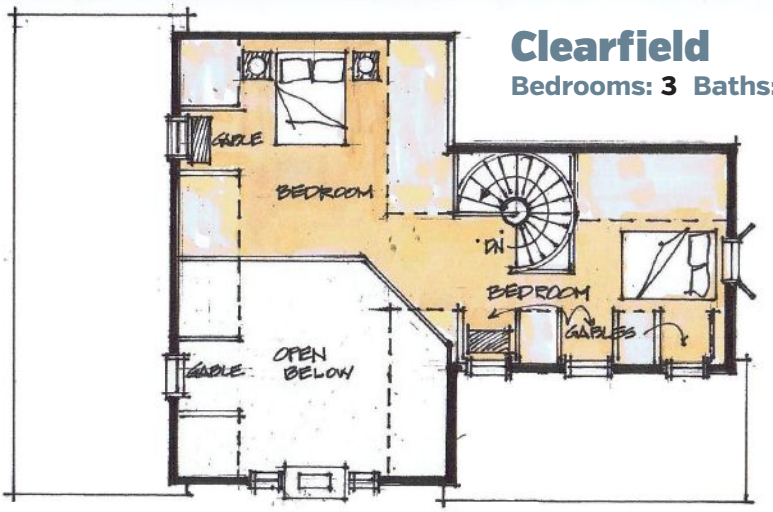
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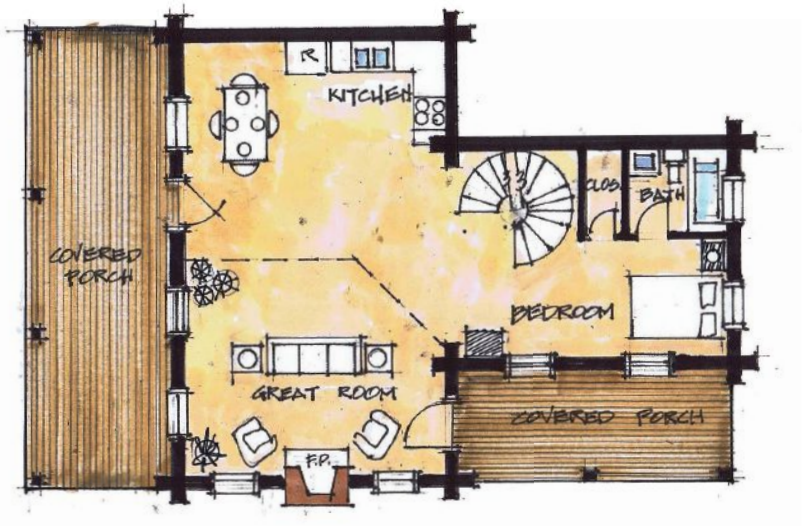
Clearfield

Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 1 **Square Footage:** 1,327



Second Floor



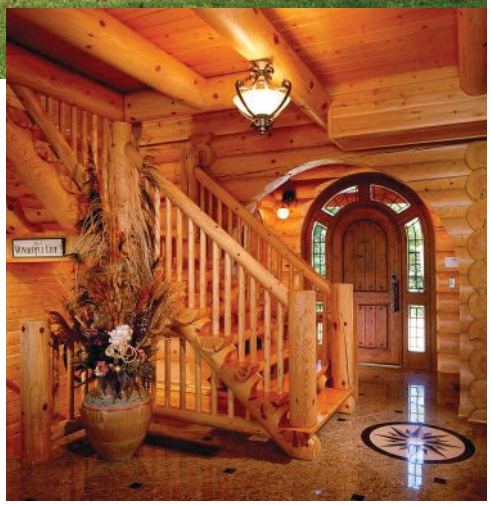


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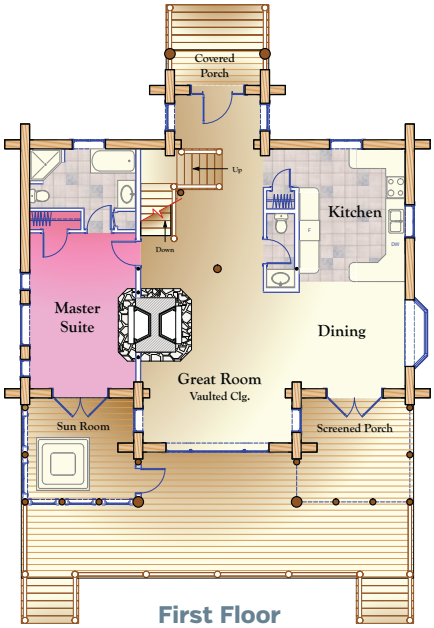
Norway Knight

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 1/2 Square Footage: 2,201

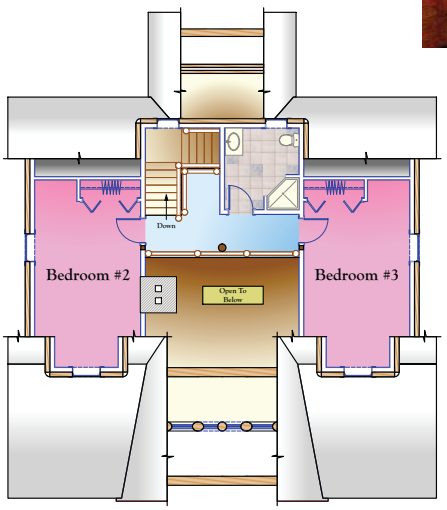
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Second Floor

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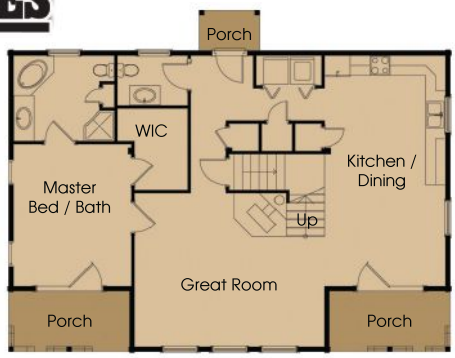
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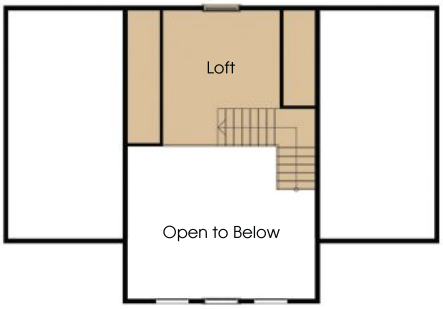
Bedrooms: 1
Baths: 1 1/2
Square Footage: 1,456
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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1st Floor



2nd Floor



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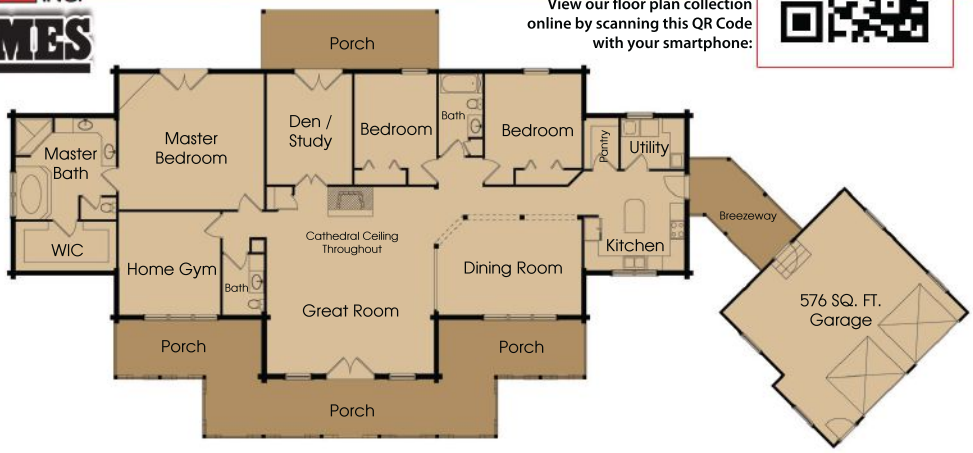
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SPIRITWOOD

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 1/2
Square Footage: 2,984
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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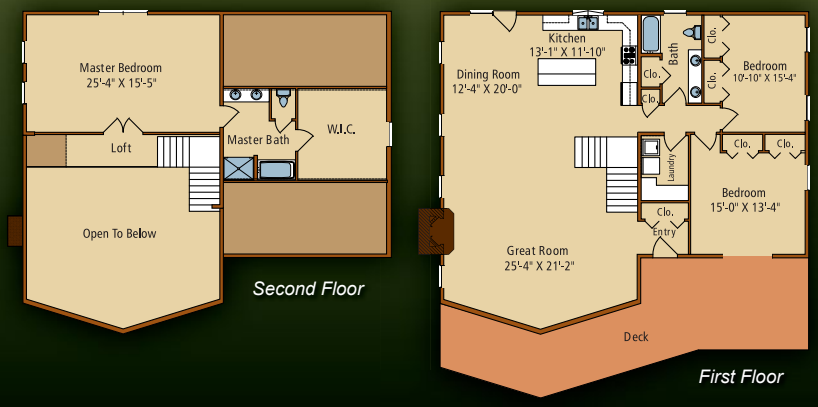
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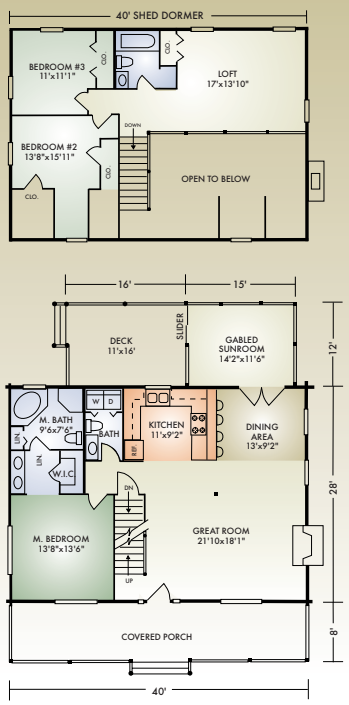
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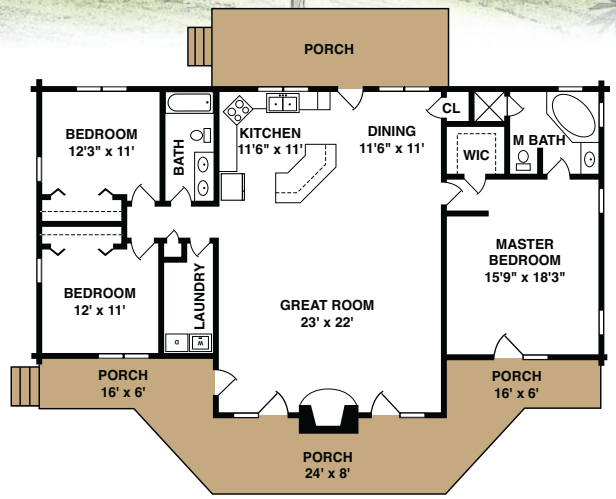
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Peacock

It is easy to see that this plan has it all, with master suite privacy on the main level and a cozy guest room wing. The great room, with heavy timber Douglas fir beams, accents the main gathering room. It is perfect.





Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2
Square Footage: 1,768
Package Price: Call for prices

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The Silverado

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, award-winning cabin combines a unique twist of traditional and modern styles. Its design maximizes the use of space and allows for a private getaway in the master suite. A shed dormer covers the rear of the home allowing for plenty of headroom and additional natural light. Two gable dormers grace the front, not only adding floor space to the home but, giving the home the traditional cabin feel. The spacious wraparound porch gives plenty of outdoor living areas to enjoy. The "Silverado" received the "Cabin of the Year" award from *Field & Stream* Magazine. Available in Cedar, Cypress or Pine and a variety of log profiles this home will truly serve your family and friends every need.

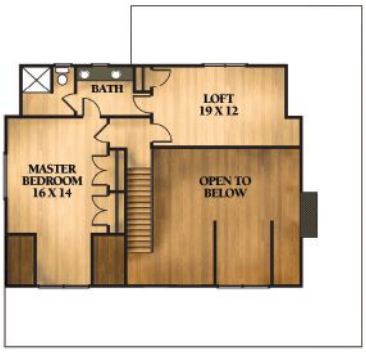
Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2
Square Footage: 2,184
Package Price: Call for prices

The Original Log Cabin Homes
P.O. Box 1457 • Rocky Mount NC 27802
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e-mail: info@logcabinhomes.com
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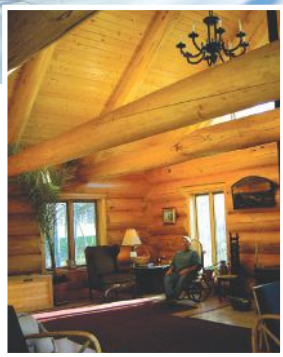


First Floor



Second Floor







Grunberg Home

The Grunberg Home, 32-by-44-feet with 18-to-24-inch diameter logs, has a great room with an attached dining room, a spacious kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath on the main level. Other features include a loft master bedroom and bath and beautiful log staircases inside and out. An information and planning packet containing this and other models is available for $5.

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DREAM HOME 16 THE SOLID TREATMENT

DREAM HOME 18 DOORS BY DESIGN

DREAM HOME 20 WIDE OPEN SPACES

DREAM HOME 22 THE NATURAL

DREAM HOME 26 CHANGE OF PACE

DREAM HOME 28 PRESERVE & PROTECT

DREAM HOME 29 MAKING AN ENTRANCE

DREAM HOME 30 WORRY-FREE LIVING

Located in Golden, Colorado, this timber-frame hybrid home features log veneer siding and chinking for a look that fits in with the rugged landscape.





Long-Term Luxury

Colorado Timberframe builds a home that's dedicated to long-term living and energy efficiency.

Take a look at the surrounding landscape, and it's easy to see what makes the Golden Gate Ranch in Golden, Colorado, so special. Nestled among the Rocky Mountains, this three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath retreat sits on a picturesque hillside, looking out onto the vast valley below.

But it's not just the stunning views that make this house so appealing. Designed as a home that will work well now and in the future, the house features a livable open-concept plan — a point that was very important to the homeowners. "They really wanted this to be a home where they could spend the rest of their lives, and we achieved that through careful planning and attention to the overall functionality of the design," says the architect for the project, Ken Pieper of Ken Pieper and Associates LLC.

To create the open concept that the homeowners so desired, Colorado Timberframe of Lafayette, Colorado, provided a structural timber frame for the main living areas, including the great room. From there, timber accents were included throughout the rest of the house to reinforce the aesthetic, but keep the budget in line. The master suite was also positioned on the first floor and, paired with the open layout, makes the home great for retirement as well as everyday living.



Because the homeowners were working from scratch, they also decided to take advantage of a custom design and create as sustainable a home as possible. Ultimately, they decided to go for a Net Zero rating on the house to save on electrical and feed power back into the grid. To accomplish this goal and to protect the surrounding environment, the house was planned and sited for the best solar-heat gain, in addition to using solar panels and a geo-thermal heat system.





At 4,690 square feet, the finished home is a true tribute to its surroundings, and looks as if it belongs on the land. "Natural materials for all of the exterior and interior elements was a very important part of the clients' agenda," says Keenan Tompkins, president of Colorado Timbeframe, so the exterior siding (made from a log veneer) was made to have a cabin effect, complete with chinking. To further finish off the look, the siding was hand hewn with wire brushing and axe marks to create a vintage look — another smart design detail to ensure this Colorado beauty stands the test of time.



OPPOSITE, TOP: Colorado Timberframe provided the structural timber frame for the home, most visible in the main living room.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: Incorporating the master suite on the first floor ensures the possibility for long-term living in the home.

ABOVE: An open-concept plan, complete with a combined kitchen and dining area, was an important design element for the homeowners who hope to live in the house into their later years.

Colorado Timberframe

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ColoradoTimberFrame.com
info@ColoradoTimberFrame.com

SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 35.

OPPOSITE: A wall of windows in the great room connects the Leighs' home to its riverfront location.
BELOW: Giving conservation a high priority, Tom and Courtney Leigh inventoried the trees on their lot, carefully considering which to save and which to transplant before construction began.

Dreaming in Green

Family chooses Katahdin Cedar Log Homes for an eco-friendly home.

Home by Katahdin Cedar Log Homes • Photos by Geoffrey Hodgdon

For Tom and Courtney Leigh, building a dream home presented an opportunity to put their beliefs into practice.

Tom, who works as Riverkeeper for the Miles and Wye Rivers, as part of the Waterkeeper Alliance, and Courtney, an environmental education specialist, wanted a log home for their riverside site and began searching for the best option. "We started with a big funnel and attended a huge log home show," Tom says. "We narrowed it down to cedar as a log species, because of the intrinsic value of cedar." Katahdin's sustainable forestry practices struck a chord with the couple. "It was something we wanted to support as a consumer," Tom says.



The Leighs planned to build on family land that had been a certified tree farm; planted with hardwoods, softwoods and Christmas trees. They insisted on finding a builder who would respect their desire to save as many trees as possible. After months of identifying trees that would remain on the site and those that would be transplanted, the Leighs were able to begin construction on their new home just 125 feet from the banks of the Wye River.

The now completed home sets a stunning example for how to take advantage of beautiful views. The river and surrounding forest is just outside every room in the home, making the outdoors an integral part of the home's ambiance.

The home's location drove other decisions, as well. The river that Tom monitors had become contaminated with pollution from poor land-use decisions. Tom and Courtney's goal was to mitigate their home's proximity to the water with forward-thinking design. "We took advantage of the site's natural configuration to filter water from the roof and driveways," Tom says. A natural low point on their land became a rain garden. Naturally hydrophilic (or water-loving) trees and other




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LEFT: A re-purposed church pew sits in the Leighs' loft, creating a restful spot to look out over the great room and the Wye River beyond.

OPPOSITE: Slate tile and stainless steel appliances contrast with green cabinetry and a vintage style wood island in the kitchen. A bump-out window frames a forest view.

SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 38.

vegetation filters the runoff water before it returns to the river.

Because nitrates are another major pollutant affecting the Wye River, the Leighs installed a de-nitrifying septic system that uses new technology to cut nitrates from the septic water by 50 percent before it filters into the watershed. "The worst thing I could do as a Waterkeeper," Tom says, "is to be a hypocrite. I want to be a demonstrator. I have a responsibility and a duty to show people how they can make a positive contribution to their river."

"One thing we believe in at Katahdin is that our green initiatives are not only good for our planet, but good for our company," says David Gordon, Katahdin's owner. The company's manufacturing process makes the most of a renewable resource by utilizing all parts of their locally sourced trees: Stripped bark is sent to a mulching company; small-diameter pieces are used as railings, fencing or other decorative items; and sawdust and wood scraps are burned as biomass to heat Katahdin's mill buildings.

Maintaining the beauty of wood over time requires a treatment that helps shield the wood from the effects of sunlight, water and weather.





The Finish Line

Lifeline Ultra-7 from Perma-Chink Systems provides lasting beauty.

With warm weather comes home construction and maintenance. If you're building your dream log home or caring for the wood on your current home, you should consider factors like appearance, longevity, value and environmental friendliness when choosing a log stain.

Lifeline Ultra-7 exterior stain from Perma-Chink Systems enhances the beauty of wood's grain and natural color while serving as a shield for your home's logs.

When choosing a stain, color and tone are important factors for homeowners. A high-performance finish like Lifeline Ultra-7 ensures the finish will look as beautiful years after application as it did when it was first applied. The stain's longevity is due to a balanced formula of transparent iron oxides, mildew inhibitors and an advanced polymer resin. The transparent iron oxides protect logs without creating a "painted" look that hides the grain. These pigments also provide superior UV protection, blocking the fading and bleaching effects of the sun for a much longer period of time.



Perma-Chink's most durable exterior stain, Lifeline Ultra-7 has proven its longevity in multiple exposure tests in harsh weather conditions across the country. To keep the stain flexible, but tough, the stain's formula counts on a state-of-the-art resin. Perhaps more important than the seal's strength, the resin also ensures that the seal is continuous, providing protection from holes and gaps that might otherwise develop with a lower-quality finish. The stain also boasts unsurpassed adhesion to wood.

Picking the right wood finishing product can be confusing, because you need to consider varying costs, differing coverage rates and labor prices. You must also consider the maintenance and re-coat schedule for your stain job, because many finishes require annual or biannual applications.

Over the long run, Lifeline will be the least expensive option. Plus, Lifeline Ultra-7 can be used on exterior walls, decks, railings and siding.

If choosing an environmentally friendly product is important, note that Lifeline Ultra-7 meets and exceeds all standards for low-VOC exterior finishes in the most restrictive regions in North America, meaning you can use it in any location. Plus, your application tools will clean up with soap and water, eliminating the need for any harsh chemicals during the initial application or maintenance.

In Good Company

Four friends build a shared home away from home, courtesy of Honest Abe Log Homes.

Story by Suzanna Logan • Photography by James Ray Spahn • Styling by Colleen Macomber



The home's original design called for a single front door, but for visual impact, the owners instead chose a double door, which was made by a local craftsman and ushers tons of natural light through the entryway. "The front door is the first thing you see when you look at a house," says owner Marshall Owens. "It needs to make an impression."

When Marshall and Paula Owens got together for a picnic with their long-time friends, Robert and Sarah Massey, they all expected to share good food and conversation.

What they didn't anticipate is that they'd end up going halfsies on a 3,000-square-foot log home.

On the morning of the picnic, the friends had attended a log home-construction presentation, but since both couples already owned full-time residences, they had no serious intentions of building. Still, it wasn't long before the footloose feeling that comes from lingering with friends over a bottle of wine won them over to the idea.

"During the course of the afternoon, the more we ate and the more we drank, the better it sounded," Marshall says with a laugh. The two couples soon agreed that the quaint town of Hayesville, North Carolina, with its rolling mountains and glassy lakes, colorful Native American heritage and local golf courses was the ideal setting for their home away from home.

Although the preliminary decisions were made with ease, the building process itself proved to be an 18-month-long exercise in the pursuit of perfection. The four friends, who dubbed themselves "the committee," wanted the home to be cozy yet contemporary, stylish yet functional. With the help of the design and sales professionals at Moss, Tennessee-based Honest Abe Log Homes, that's exactly what they got.

They began by tweaking one of Honest Abe's stock plans to include two master bedroom suites on either side of the great room. They added an 80-foot covered deck with six entrance points. Because the house is built into the side of a mountain, multiple posts had to be put in place to keep the deck level with the rest of the structure. The customized plans also included one of the home's most striking features – a wall of windows that frames the majestic mountain scene.

Luckily for the couples and their guests, the interior views are just as stunning. The eastern white pine, 6-by-12-



The great room is where the couples spend much of their time, and it's easy to see why, with the room's sit-a-spell seating area and soaring windows. On the walls, an elk head and bear rug (not pictured) from Sarah Massey's 80- year-old uncle lend a lodge feel and double as conversation pieces.





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LEFT: The 80-foot deck that wraps three-quarters of the way around the house is the couples' favorite place to enjoy evening meals. To keep it inviting rain or shine, they covered the deck and added overhead fans and plush lounge furniture. A few easy-to-care-for hanging and potted plants add a burst of color to their wooded surroundings.

OPPOSITE: For a fresh look in the kitchen, the homeowners paired rich hues and textures that create instant warmth with a green wall that adds a spunky flair and pop of color.

SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 37.

inch logs have a subtle, wave-like texture that lends a rustic elegance to the interior, while wrought iron, stucco and drywall accents add a modern edge.

Marshall further enhanced the surface of the logs by applying multiple shades of stain before distressing the wood – the same process he used on the hand-hewn oak floors. But the work didn't stop there. The friendly quartet also finished the bathrooms, painted the drywall and laid tile in the basement.

"They probably saved a good bit of money with all the work they did, since they essentially acted as their own general contractors," says Josh Beasley, President of Honest Abe Log Homes.

But trying to keep costs down wasn't the couples' primary goal. "We really wanted to put ourselves into the home so it would have a personal touch," explains Marshall.

Other tailored traits include the built-in flat-screen television and surround-sound system in the great room, the hot tub on the lower deck and the built-in bar in the basement.

With its copious amenities, your grandpa's old-fashioned fishing cabin it isn't. "I call it 'a log cabin on steroids,'" chuckles Marshall.

Even with all the lavish extras, Robert said that no one wanted the home to be showy – just an inviting place where they could make memories with close friends and family.

"It was one of those things where if you're going to do one project, you might as well do the next project, and by the end, we had done it all," Robert explains. "I think even we were surprised at how well it turned out."

The Solid Treatment

Pairing new innovation with a timeless style, Better Than Logs brings concrete siding to the masses.

We all know the inherent strength and durability that comes with concrete. Concrete is, of course, one of the most versatile and durable materials in the housing construction arena. Because it is extremely weather resistant, concrete is used for roadways, surfaces and structures big and small. And now that same dependability can be applied to your home's exterior walls without sacrificing style, thanks to Concrete Log Siding from Better Than Logs.

While some purists prefer authentic log walls or half logs, the benefits in durability and long-term strength that come



with concrete are undeniable. Exceptionally sturdy, concrete log siding helps you avoid the structural instability and settling that can sometimes occur with more traditional materials. In areas prone to wild fires, severe storms and other disasters, concrete siding can provide a safe shelter that can withstand the elements. Plus, concrete can be treated to provide the same look as real logs, without the potential danger of water, weather and insect damage over time, and requires no additional staining.

Here's how the product works:
The engineered concrete siding is made by pouring concrete into log shaped molds. These forms can then be installed onto conventional framing, SIP panels, ICF blocks or most any solid wall surface. If you're interested in considering different log styles and profiles for your home, Better Than Logs offers seven styles of engineered concrete siding, as well as six color shades to choose from. They also offer 18 different styles of trims and all other materials required to do the complete job.

Where cost is concerned, Better Than Logs can save you significantly on your log home. The Better Than Logs products typically pay for themselves within 2 to 3 years, providing a smart solution for getting the look of logs for less.

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Designed to mimic the look of real logs, concrete siding provides a time-honored aesthetic with modern durability and low-maintenance benefits.

Doors by Design

Timber Valley Millwork's custom doors boost curb appeal and character.







A custom entry door (left) makes a lasting first impression, while interior doors with added character (above) keep your style continuous throughout the house.

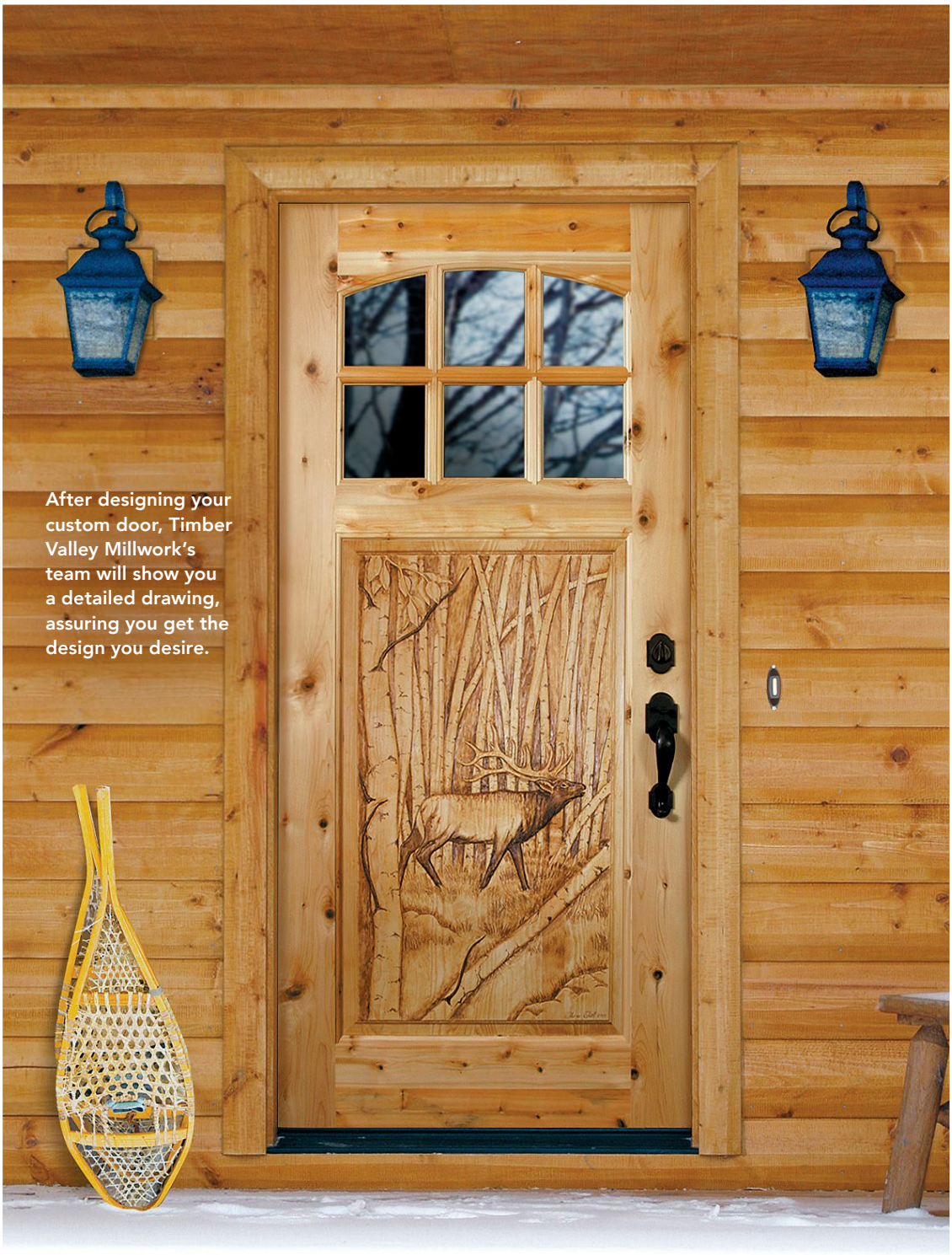
A door is a door — as long as it can open and close correctly, who cares? Right? Wrong. Although function is a key element in door design, aesthetics are equally important. Doors are one of the few design items used continually throughout the home, providing them a chance to really set the tone for your decor.

"Custom doors can separate one home from another. In fact, an entry door can set the tone of a house before a person even steps foot inside," says Daniel Schmidt, Jr. of Timber Valley Millwork. "If a homeowner is going for a rustic look they might turn to a knotty pine, alder or cedar door species. For a more modern look, a lot of people are moving toward maple and cherry doors."

Timber Valley Millwork makes some of the finest doors in the world, both for the exterior and interior of your home. They pride themselves in the attention to detail that small handcrafters have, but with shorter lead times, plus the consistency and advanced technology of a larger company.

To choose a door for your custom home, simply pick from their line of rustic wood species, including knotty pine, knotty cedar and knotty alder, or request other exotic wood species to reflect the style of your home. Timber Valley Millwork features a full line of standard door sizes as well as offering custom designs. Whether your specifications call for circle-top door units, transom sashes or any variety of specials, they have a product to fulfill your needs.

"Once your door is designed, we also have a CAD designer in house who provides detailed drawings prior to any order to show you the exact specifications of your door," Schmidt says, "guaranteeing you get exactly what you want for your home."



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Wide Open Spaces

A beautiful cabin — with equally breathtaking views — by The Original Log Cabin Homes.

Photography by Stephen Brumfield

When Frankie and Wanda Marshburn set out to build their log cabin in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, they kind of went about things backwards. "'Bringing Sunset Lodge to Life' — we had the name before we even began dreaming of how our cabin would look," they say.

But the name just made sense, given the home's striking setting. "When we were looking at the land to purchase, we met the neighbors who told us that many locals came to the end of the dead end road in the evenings to view the sunset," the Marshburns say. "As we stayed there that evening and watched the sun go down, we understood why — it was the most beautiful sunset we had ever seen."

From there, the couple set out to create a home to rival the beautiful views, and fortunately, Original Log Cabin Homes was just the company to make that dream a reality. They chose the company's Tennessee Mountain model, but worked with the design team to change the layout for convenience in their later years, moving the master bedroom downstairs. The resulting cabin is 2,160 square feet, with three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms and a spacious loft overlooking the living area below.

For the look of the house, they knew from the start that they wanted the cabin to have a 19th-century feel, complete with tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings, and yellow pine floors. To add to the historical, antique feel, the couple incorporated many family artifacts throughout the home, such as oil lamps, pictures of Wanda's family's original cabin, pictures of both their ancestors, old irons that were placed in the fire to heat and cowbells.

In the end, the sunset-inspired retreat is all the Marshburns dreamed of and more. "If you're looking for a family oriented partner to build your log home, we highly recommend The Original Log Cabin Homes as that partner," Wanda says. "The customer service department was a huge help during the planning process. Even though their responsibilities ended with the delivery of the cabin, they always answered the phone to help with any questions or concerns we had through the building process."





SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 41.

ABOVE: The 2,160-square-foot cabin features a 19th-century aesthetic, complete with stacked-log walls and a spacious back porch with outdoor fireplace.

BELOW: The location of the Marshburns' cabin is perfect for taking in the North Carolina sunset over the hills.

The Original LOG CABIN HOMES®

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Warm colors, including crimson and mocha, invite guests into a classic home characterized by chinking between the logs and handhewn timbers in the ceiling beams.

OPPOSITE: The Mengs fell in love with the classic charm of log homes, despite Paul's background in stickbuilt construction. But his building know-how aided in a smoother construction process.

The Natural

StoneMill Log & Timber Homes crafts a home dedicated to craftsmanship and longevity.

Story by Kenya McCullum • Photography by James Ray Spahn • Styling by Colleen Macomber

Paul Meng builds conventional, stick-built houses for a living. So you might logically think that, when it came time to construct his dream home, he'd go with what he knew best. But this doesn't account for Paul's desire to build a classic — something he was sure that logs could deliver.

"We had our eyes on a log home for a few years, and when my wife and I actually visited one, we decided right then and there that's what we wanted to build," says Paul, who had toured a house built by Tennessee-based StoneMill Log Homes. "It was a lifestyle we knew was right for us."

Paul was particularly impressed with the style of log home that StoneMill specializes in — a dovetail corner rectangular log with a 4-inch chink joint — which the company has made its hallmark since 1974. Matthew Sterchi, StoneMill's vice president of sales, says this log home design is popular for both aesthetic and structural reasons, including the fact that his company's signature dovetail log has been used for centuries.

So over the next year, Paul worked with StoneMill to build his dream home, and as a builder himself, he knew exactly what he wanted and how to communicate with company representatives in a common builder's language. Paul made extensive modifications, such as adding a garage, dining room and an extra bedroom, to one of StoneMill's stock floor plans.

In order to cut costs, Paul decided to have his own company pick up the project where StoneMill left off at the shell. His crew took the lead on the construction of the home's interior, which allowed him to cut back on some expenses. Of course, not everyone has this luxury, but Paul notes that it's easy to keep a watchful eye on the bottom line if you do your homework and work closely with the builder on what's being spent, from labor to materials. "It's all about planning out each room in the house from the beginning," he says.

As Paul is quick to note, it's a labor of love that delivers comfort, warmth and the setting for unmatched memories.





Paul's cozy back porch overlooks a yard brimming with scores of mature trees. Low-maintenance landscaping plantings, including azaleas, ferns and hydrangeas, also grace the yard.





The living room offers privacy behind closed doors, with the added ambience of candlelight from both the chandelier and candle sticks.

StoneMill
Log & Timber Homes

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SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 40.

Change of Pace

Montana Log Homes creates a relaxing mountain retreat.

Story by Roland Sweet • Photography by Heidi Long

So, where do people from Florida go to retire? As far away as possible, if they're Jim and Michelle McCartney. After years of living on boats and in an oceanfront condo in the Fort Lauderdale area, the couple longed for a change of climate and room to roam. That led them to Eureka, Montana, just seven miles from the Canadian border, where they built the log home of their dreams.

The McCartneys thought about a log home for quite a while before they were ready to make the move. "Years ago, I noticed a log-home magazine and picked up a copy to see what they were all about," Michelle recalls. "I was hooked."

As retirement neared and the couple began making plans, they, like many in their position, anticipated downsizing. Instead, they went from 2,400 square feet on one level to 5,600 square feet on three. One reason for the upsize was the grandeur of the northwest Montana countryside, both the openness and the towering peaks; another was to accommodate the logs. "Logs add a lot to a home's square footage," Jim says.

As long as logs were going to have such an impact on their home, they wanted ones whose look they liked. They researched companies all over the West before discovering the one that suited them right under their noses. "We kept driving to and from Kalispell and passing a company called Montana Log Homes, near Flathead Lake," Jim recalls. "Finally, we decided to stop in."



They liked the company's big handcrafted logs — lodgepole pine, with 12-inch average diameters — but what won them over was designer Eric Bachofner. "We'd already worked up a preliminary design, based on a cross-shaped footprint, with everything flowing off the center corridor," Jim says. "Eric suggested several modifications, which not only saved us money, but also added space for a sunroom that's now our favorite spot to sit and relax."

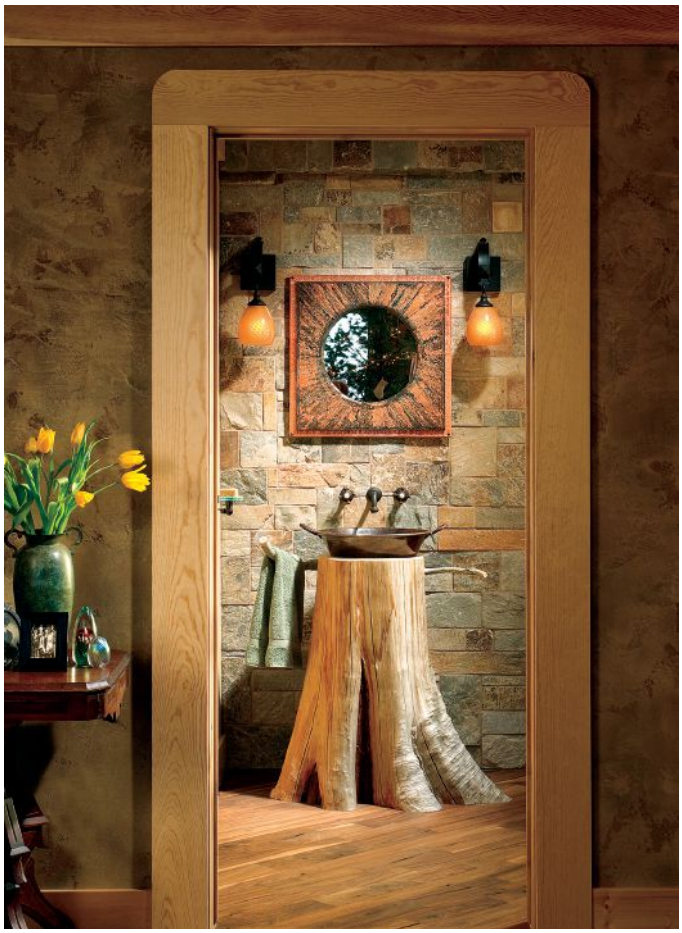
The plan features plenty of windows that flood the interior with light and enjoy panoramic views of the Canadian Rockies. Their eight acres adjoin a 1,200-acre ranch, assuring them openness and solitude — except for the large elk herd that grazes within eyesight much of the year.

The McCartneys credit their contractor, Jeff Kalwara, with "building our house, not his," unlike the other builders they considered who Jim says weren't shy about expressing their own ideas about how things ought to be done. They also appreciated that Kalwara used local subcontractors rather than hire a crew from Kalispell, 80 miles away, that would have cost more and taken longer.

Time had no effect on the workmanship, which reveals itself in the attention to detail. A few of the highlights are a log-slab spiral staircase supported by a 30-foot-tall log pole, walnut floors in a herringbone design, rounded door and window trim to echo the curves of the logs, pebbled shower floors and a tin ceiling in the foyer. Plus, the logs themselves are rich with character.

The McCartneys are grateful for the way their home turned out and note that family and friends who visit comment on how comfortable it feels. "As one of our visitors noted," says Michelle, "it's like a warm embrace."





SEE THIS FLOOR PLAN FEATURED ON PAGE DREAM HOME 39.

ABOVE, LEFT: The two-story spiral staircase with log-slab treads wraps around a 30-foot support post, creating the effect of having a tree inside the house. To avoid carrying groceries up from the lower-level garage, the McCartneys installed a dumbwaiter.

ABOVE, RIGHT: A sawed-off tree trunk serves as a pedestal for the bathroom sink, highlighted by the sunburst mirror frame. The McCartneys rounded door and window trim throughout the house to mimic the curve of their logs.

LEFT: After living on boats, where galley and socializing space are on different levels, the McCartneys wanted their log-home kitchen to flow into the great room so they could chat with company while preparing meals. Wide windows offer a pleasing view while working at the sink.

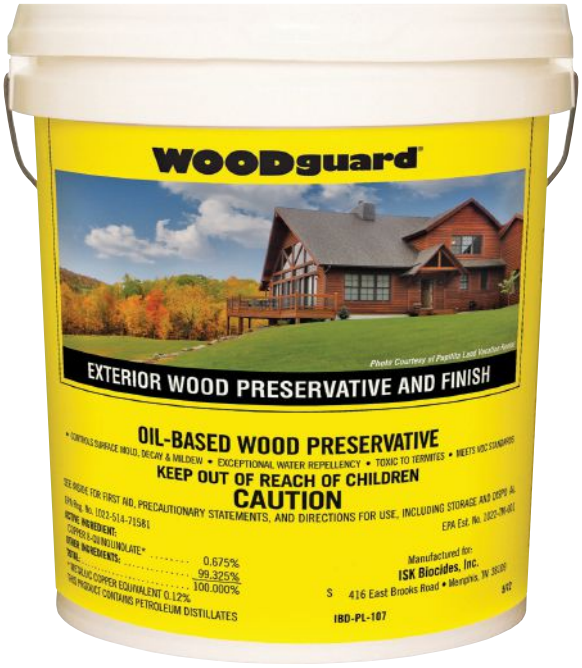


KALISPELL
MONTANA LOG HOMES
THE HANDCRAFTED ALTERNATIVE

406-752-2992 MontanaLogHomes.com info@MontanaLogHomes.com

Preserve & Protect

Regular maintenance will assure your log home's looks and longevity, and Blairstown Distributors helps you do exactly that.



Most people who buy a log home today expect to be living in it for many years to come, perhaps even dreaming that it will be passed down to subsequent generations. Theirs is no pipe dream. A properly maintained log home has the potential to last hundreds of years. The key is to keep it properly maintained with products like WOODguard from Blairstown Distributors.

"Water is what rots wood over time, so the bottom line is you need to keep that water out," says Pam Kren of Blairstown Distributors. "WOODguard, in our opinion, is the best water repellant on the market, and it protects your logs from mold and mildew."

An EPA-registered product, WOODguard only requires a one-coat application — something folks can do themselves for the first and subsequent applications. "Our customers can absolutely apply WOODguard themselves by brushing or carefully spraying the product on their logs with a backpack-type sprayer," says Kren.

When you're ready to re-apply the product, you will have to evaluate whether a touch-up is required or it's time to re-do the whole house. Try spraying the house with a garden hose. If the water still beads up over most of the log surface, you're in good shape. If the beads of water are flattening out it is time to re-apply.

With vigilance and diligence — and some help from WOODguard — you can keep the weather from interfering with the natural lifespan of your log home. The resulting peace of mind will allow you to enjoy your new home even more, knowing it will stand strong and solid for your grandchildren — and theirs.

BLAIRSTOWN DISTRIBUTORS
800-524-1093
BlairstownDistributors.com

Making an Entrance

Doors serve a few primary functions, be it privacy, insulation or security. Vintage Doors proves they can be a key element in your decor, too.







At Vintage Doors, they believe that an entrance door is much more than just an entry point into your home — it makes a tasteful statement about the people who live inside. Aside from their general aesthetic pleasures, their solid wood doors will enhance and retain their beauty and value for many years to come. A Vintage Doors solid wood door will unquestionably create a timeless expression for your new or remodeled home that other materials and manufacturers cannot match.

Vintage Doors was created in 1990 with a vision and passion for fine woodworking and craftsmanship. Each solid wood door is built just like in the olden days — one at a time — and made to endure the test of time. Vintage Doors' very first solid wood door productions were the Victorian style screen and storm doors. Initially, only six designs were offered to the public. As demand grew, additional Victorian and Traditional screen and storm designs were added, as well as a small collection of interior and exterior door models.

Today, nearly twenty years later, Vintage Doors has not lost sight of its passion and vision — always preferring historical accuracy and handcrafted integrity over mass production. The company boasts over 130 screen and storm door designs for virtually any style of home. Vintage Doors has also continued to expand their interior and exterior door collections and is able to cater to practically any custom project or specification.

Vintage Doors believes solid wood doors should reflect and portray true American skill and art. The production of your one-of-a kind door starts with their highly skilled craftsmen selecting the correct pieces of the rough-sawn, kiln-dried, real solid wood of your preference. Those skilled craftsmen then carefully mill each solid wood door component with precision to construct your door. Each fabrication process is performed with care and attention to detail by highly skilled hands — right down to finish sanding and then ultimately building a custom crate to safely ship your door. At Vintage Doors you receive the superior quality of a real solid wood door, with precision craftsmanship that has proven to last for lifetimes.

Vintage Doors By YesterYear's

800-787-2001 VintageDoors.com info@VintageDoors.com

Go Custom With Concrete

EverLog™ provides the look of logs — with a few added benefits.





Available in a variety of styles, concrete log siding can help you achieve any look of home, from rustic to more modern.





"How can we build a better wood home?" The owners of EverLog™ Systems asked themselves this question after widespread wildfires led to the destruction of hundreds of Montana homes in 2000. The answer? A family of concrete log, siding and timbers products for both structural and non-structural applications, replicating the exact texture and feel of handcrafted or milled logs and timbers.

To create a "log" that mimics the look of real wood, EverLog™'s log siding and timbers are molded into a range of profiles and corner styles identical to those found in classic log home construction, with dovetail notches, saddle notches, butt-and-pass and post corners available. The company takes care of assembly of the structural log shell on the clients' site, leaving them with a low-maintenance home. Another benefit: The concrete logs are cast to precise lengths, reducing waste and time during construction.

"Clients come to us because they want the beauty of logs and timbers without the downside," says Stewart Hansen of EverLog™ Systems. Hansen says his product eliminates concerns about warping, twisting, wildfires, termites, log settling and wood maintenance. "Many of our clients look at their homes as a legacy, a worry-free home that will be easy for the next generation to upkeep."

All of EverLog™'s concrete products are manufactured in the company's plant in Missoula, Montana, then shipped all over the country. The concrete log walls do not require a special foundation, and standard windows and doors can be used. EverLogs™ can also provide posts, beams and trusses, and the concrete can be manufactured in a custom color or one of the company's stock colors including chinking as an option. To make the logs look as close to the real thing as possible, the company takes care to form its logs, log siding and timbers, adding knots, growth rings and grain marks to the finished product.









OPPOSITE: Chinking is not required on all EverLog™ profiles but can be incorporated for aesthetic purposes.

ABOVE: Concrete EverLog™ Timbers are used on a dramatic entryway. Different log profiles and corner systems provide plenty of options when designing the look and style of your home.

EVERLOG SYSTEMS
WORRY FREE CONCRETE LOGS

877-257-5647
EverLogs.com
info@EverLogs.com

SEE AN EVERLOG FLOOR PLAN ON PAGE DREAM HOME 36.

resources

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800-605-0915

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CABIN PLACE
cabinplace.com
877-884-0248

THE CABIN SHOP
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CAST HORN DESIGNS
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800-574-3168

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CLASSIC DESIGNS BY MATTHEW BURAK
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DARRELL PEART
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decoratorssupply.com
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GREGORY PAOLINI DESIGN
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ROCKY TOP
rockytoplog furniture.com
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RUSTIC LOG FURNITURE
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thosmoser.com
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VON HEMERT INTERIORS
vonhemertinteriors.com

WHISTLE STOP FURNITURE
whistlestopfurniture.com
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WOODLAND CREEK FURNITURE
woodlandcreek furniture.com
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KITCHENS

CROWN POINT CABINETRY
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drdimes.com
603-942-8050

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elmirastoveworks.com
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800-407-8784

CANADIAN ANTLER DESIGN
cdnantler.com
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CORBETT CUSTOM LIGHTING
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danieljoseph.com
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GUN BARREL RANCH
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HAMMERTON LIGHTING
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HUBBARDTON FORGE
vtforge.com
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JOSIAH R. COPPERSMYTHE
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lighthunting.com
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PERIOD ARTS FAN CO.
periodarts.com
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AUTHENTIC WOOD FLOORS
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800-765-3966

BROAD-AXE FLOORING CO.
broadaxeflooring.com
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VINTAGE PINE FLOORING
vintagepineflooring.com
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912-863-6689

FLOOR PLANS

Colorado Timberframe

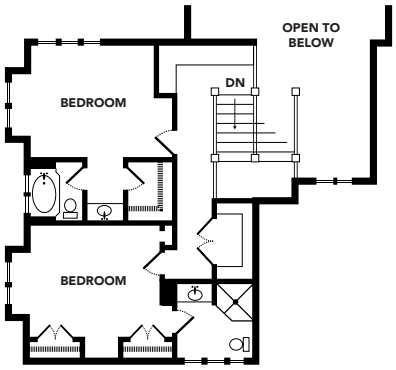
303-444-5012
www.ColoradoTimberframe.com



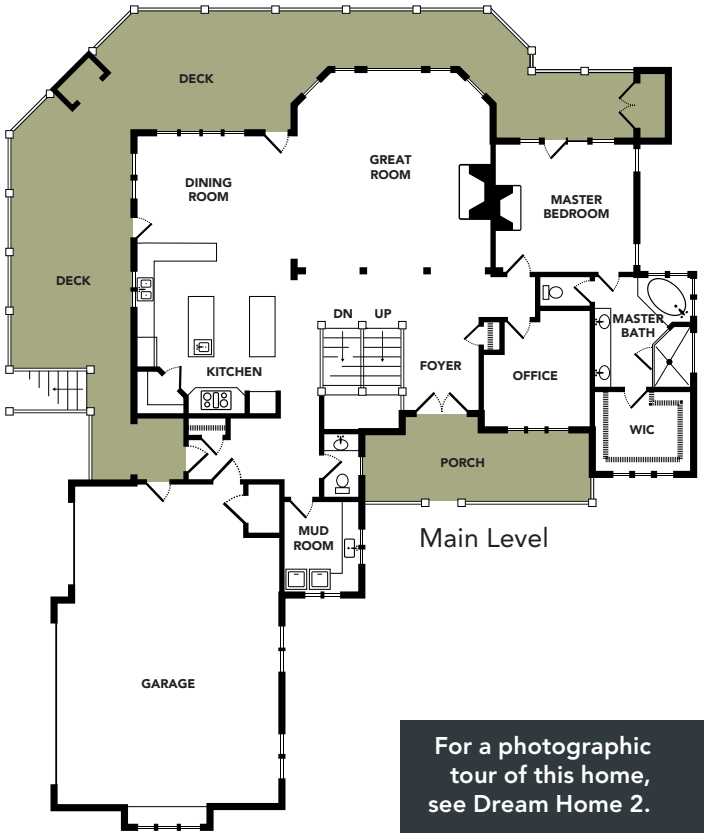
MODEL NAME

Golden Gate Ranch

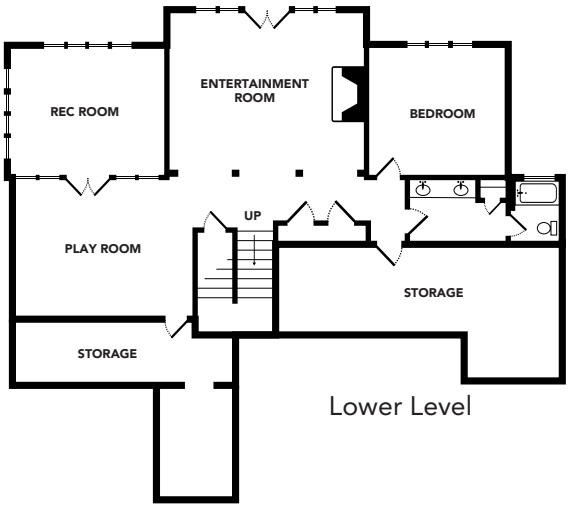
Bedrooms: 5
Baths: 3 full



Upper Level



Main Level

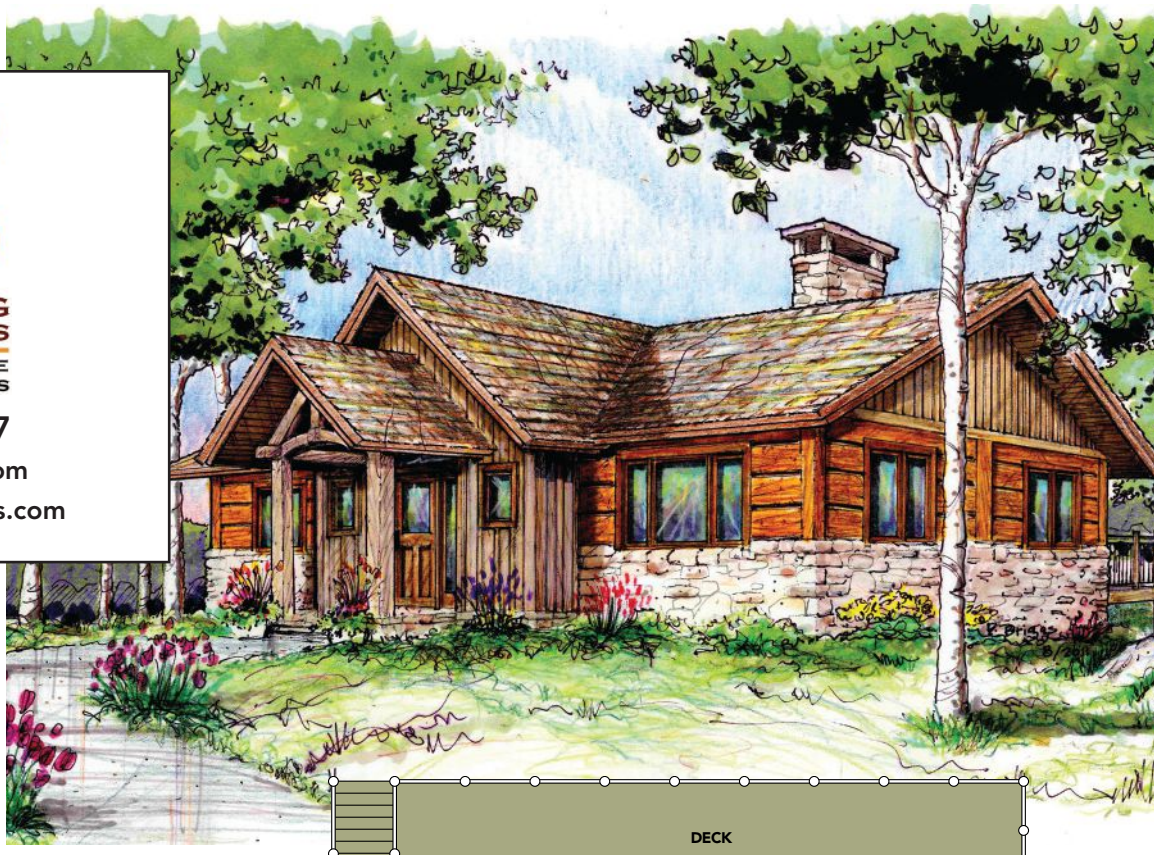


Lower Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 2.

FLOOR PLANS

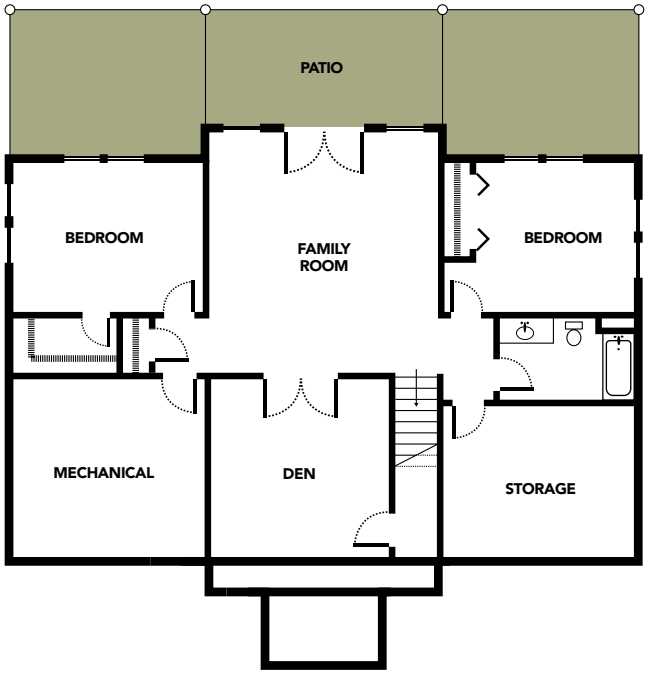
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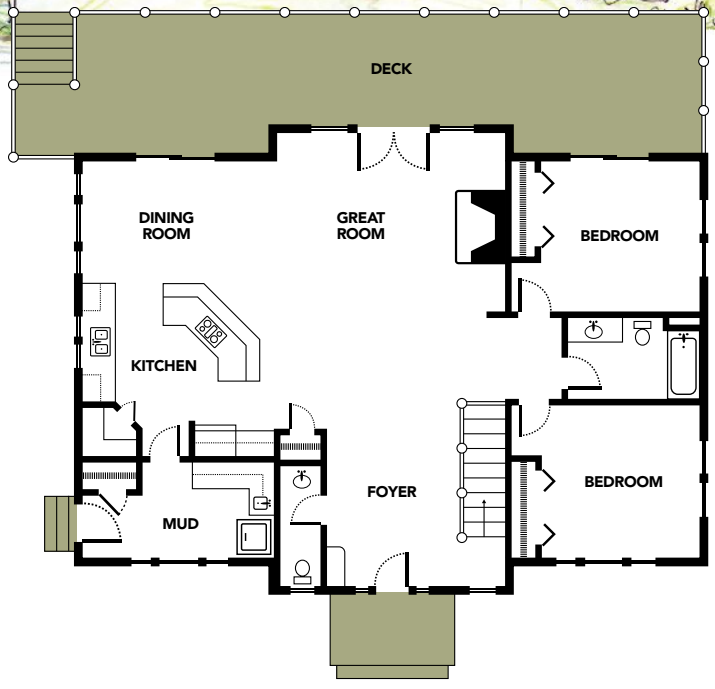
MODEL NAME

The Tamarack

Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 2 full, 1 half
Square Footage: 2,840



Lower Level



Main Level

See story and more photos from EverLog on Dream Home 30.

FLOOR PLANS

HONEST ABE INC. LOG HOMES

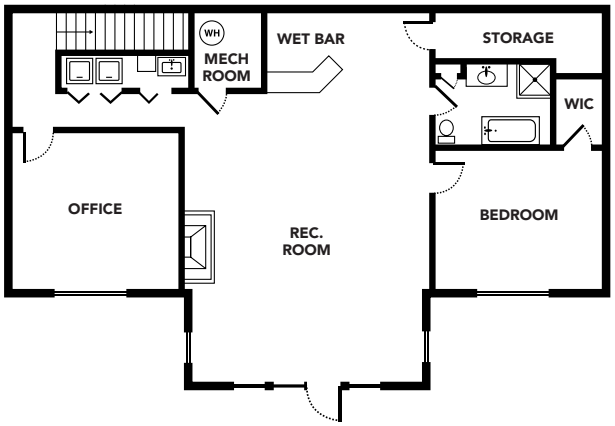
800-231-3695
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email: info@honestabe.com



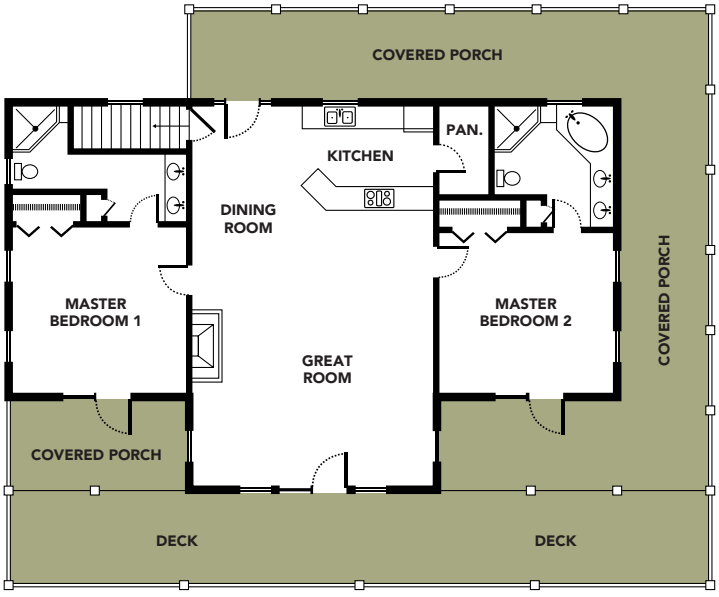
MODEL NAME

Massey-Owens Custom

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 3 full
Square Footage: 3,000



Lower Level



Main Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 12.

FLOOR PLANS

KATAHDIN
CEDAR LOG HOMES

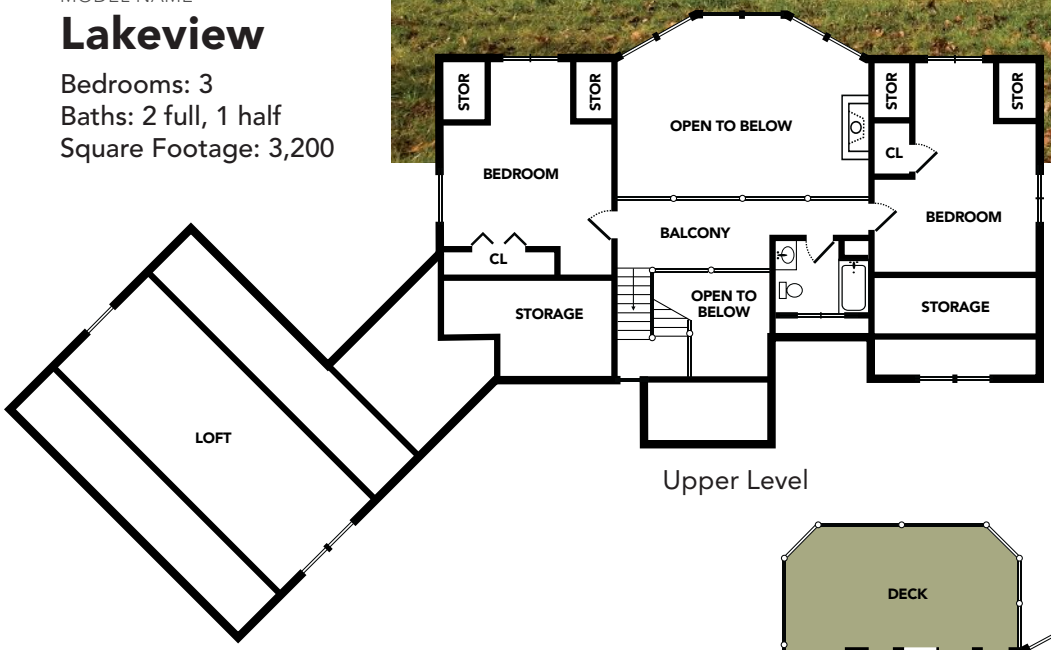
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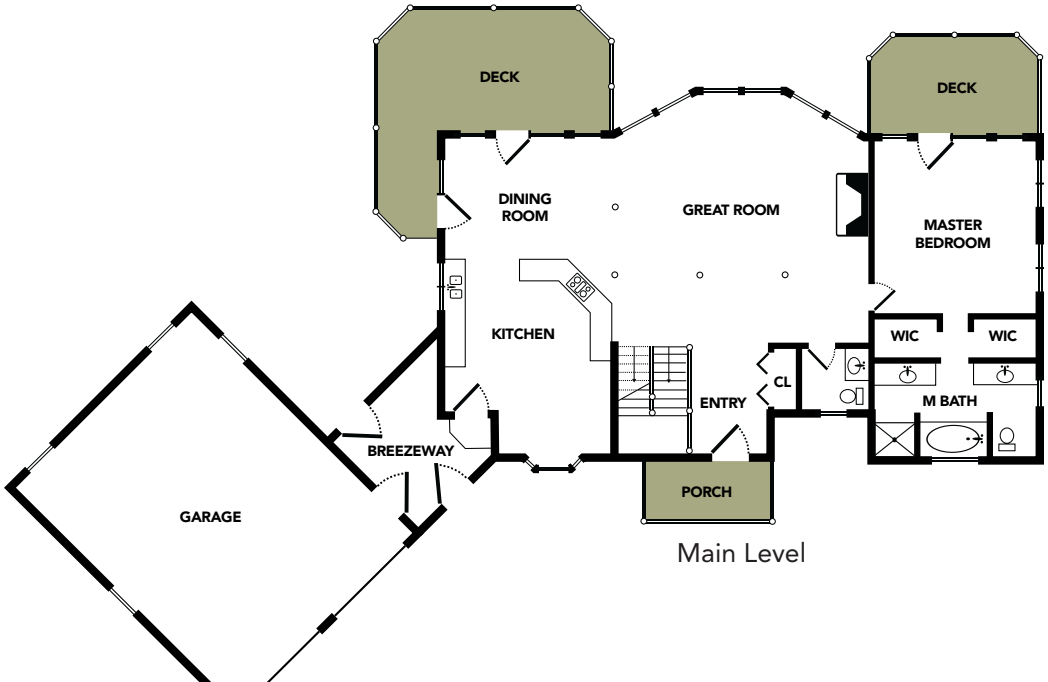
MODEL NAME

Lakeview

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 full, 1 half
Square Footage: 3,200



Upper Level



Main Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 6.

FLOOR PLANS

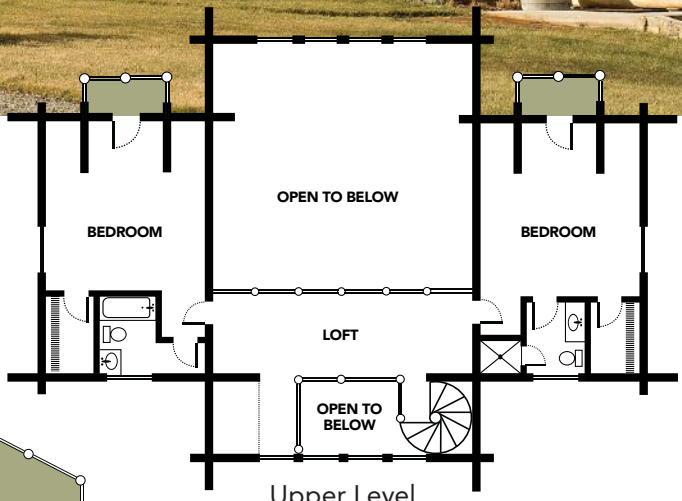
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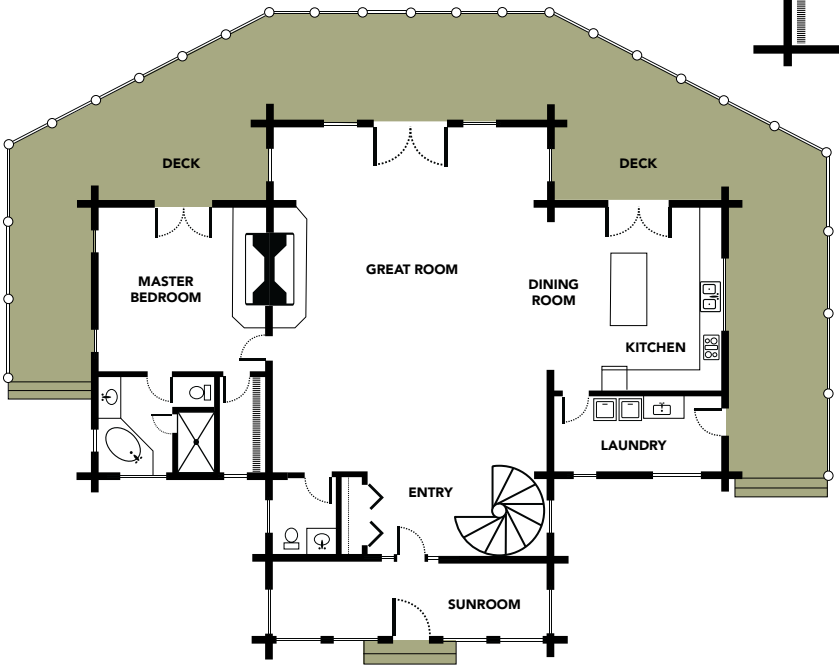


MODEL NAME
MLH-055

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 3 full, 1 half
Square Footage: 3,498



Upper Level



Main Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 26.

FLOOR PLANS

The Original LOG CABIN HOMES®

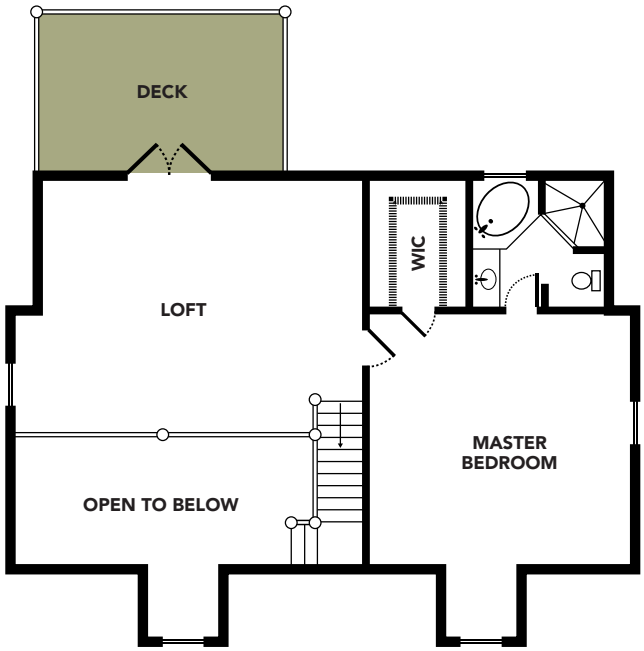
800-562-2246
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email: info@logcabinhomes.com



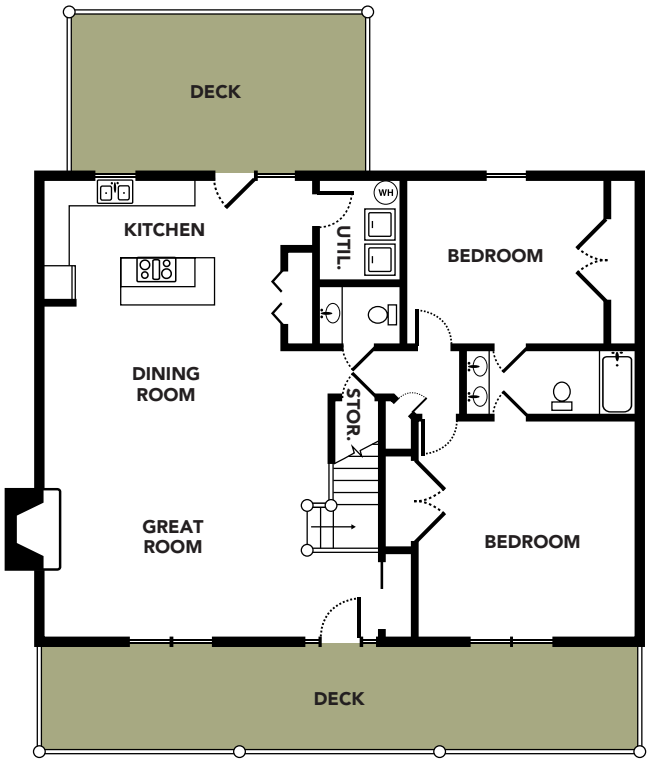
MODEL NAME

Tennessee Mountain

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 full, 1 half
Square Footage: 2,160



Upper Level



Main Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 20.

FLOOR PLANS



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Log & Timber Homes

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www.StoneMill.com
email: sales@stonemill.com

MODEL NAME

Modified Prestwick (Meng Design)

Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 5 full, 1 half
Square Footage: 6,158



Upper Level

Main Level

For a photographic tour of this home, see Dream Home 22.



Barna Log Homes, Inc

Our full service office takes you through the entire process of the design, purchase and the construction of your log or timber frame home. From hunting cabin or lodge to vacation home or full-time residence, we can craft a home that is perfect for you.

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Custom log home builder of Katahdin Cedar Log Homes. Authorized dealer for Katahdin Cedar Log Homes in WV, MD and VA.

KATAHDIN CEDAR LOG HOMES

304-822-6073
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cabin-run.com



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Whether you are planning to build new, remodel or build an addition we can do it all. We have been making dreams come true since 1985. Let us make Your Dream, Our Mission.

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EverLogs™ are a CONCRETE LOGS, SIDING and TIMBERS that eliminate the structural instability, costly maintenance, and susceptibility to fire, mold, insects, and other common log home issues. Worry free living at its best.

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Founded in 1978, Homestead is a leading manufacturer and builder of hand-crafted log homes. We offer five profiles of logs with saddlenotched corners. We ship nationwide and sell direct. We have the best prices. Call or go online to receive a free brochure, or order our 88 page catalogue.

HOMESTEAD LOG HOMES

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Log Homes of the Smokies can make your dream of building a custom log home a reality! We offer:

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Modern Rustic Homes

We are a design build company specializing in custom rustic homes featuring log, timber frames and hybrid construction. We have full in-house residential design services and construction management.

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- Handcrafted - Log Cabins, Homes and Lodges
- Large Logs Available
- Nationwide Delivery Since 1976
- 3D Design Services
- Customer Satisfaction - Always!!

If you can Dream It - We can build it!

MONTANA LOG HOMES

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Colorado Timberframe

We know you have choices for where to get your timberframe packages when it comes to building your dream home. While there are several companies out there who can get you quality timbers, joints, and pegs, few have the advantage of being in the high, dry climate of Colorado where wood can be properly prepared to minimize the chances of it checking (cracking), warping, or moving as your house ages. We also have the versatility of working with any type of wood that you choose. With Colorado Timberframe, you not only have a provider who uses industry best practices, but also offers a wide variety of options.

303-444-5012
coloradotimberframe.com

Colorado Timberframe



Honest Abe Log Homes

Honest Abe Log Homes is a designer and manufacturer of energy-efficient custom log homes and cabins and timber frame homes. Family-owned for more than 35 years, Honest Abe is headquartered in Moss, Tenn., where visitors may tour our mill and model. Other models are in the Tennessee communities of Crossville, Murfreesboro and Cookeville. A network of Independent Dealers serve clients throughout the United States. See our floor plans, photos and more at www.honestabe.com. Forever looks better from an Honest Abe home.

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HONEST ABE INC. LOG HOMES



Katahdin Cedar Log Homes

Since its founding in 1973, Katahdin Cedar Log Homes has defined itself by the quality and precision of the cedar log homes it produces, as well as the leadership role it has taken in 'green' manufacturing and construction.

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KATAHDIN CEDAR LOG HOMES



Stevens Point Log Homes

We build the best quality homes with a superb product. We use our own kiln dried, handpeeled TRUE half logs with full log corners. We now also offer a unique full log product line, providing rustic comfort. We own the mill and this saves you money. Our team is experienced, approachable and creative. We want to meet you and show you the Stevens Point Log Home difference.

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James Ray Spahn photoo

CLUES TO THE BOTTOM-LINE

Shortcuts fall short when calculating a log home's true cost. By Roland Sweet

Upgrades, such as extensive use of natural stone, are among the variables that make easy estimates of the cost of log homes difficult.

Log homes aren't for everyone. They're a discretionary purchase. You must passionately want one and be willing to spend whatever it costs to build one.

How much? Therein's the rub.

You want to know how much money you'll need before you build, but you can't know figure that until after you've built. Why? Because the house hasn't been built yet. Perhaps you haven't even bought the land you intend building on. So, unless you enlist a really good psychic, the true cost of building your log home remains a mystery.

To help you budget realistically, the people who sell log homes — that is, the logs and related building materials that make up the materials package, or kit — often offer two shortcut formulas to arrive at a ballpark figure. One is to multiply the log-package price by three. The second is to multiply your home's proposed square footage by the cost per square foot to build where you intend living.

Either way, don't bank on the answer. When it comes to log homes, there are no shortcuts. If either calculation happens to hit the exact figure, lucky guess. Both might just as easily be off by $50,000, $100,000 or more. You won't find out until you get the bill.

These shortcuts fail because they don't account for the variables that determine price. Here are some.

UPGRADES. Custom cabinets, wide-plank flooring, a real stone fireplace, big fixed-glass windows, a metal roof, porches, decks — fancy fixtures and finishes conspire to drive up the price. Some people insist on them because they regard log-home living as life's ultimate reward.

LOG-HOME SITE LOCATION FAQs

Important considerations for where a log home can be built.
www.loghome.com/log-home-site-location-faqs/

LOGS. Wall logs are substantial, but inside the home, partitioned walls can be log or drywall. Also, 6-inch logs cost less than 10-inch ones. Whether they're machined or hand-finished affects price. So does their species.

LOCATION. Where you build affects land and construction prices. That doesn't mean you must move to some dump to get a bargain. But aiming for a trendy ski-golf resort will certainly stretch your budget. Site-prep estimates are anyone's guess. The cost to deliver logs can vary by thousands of dollars, depending on distance, weight and fuel prices.

COMPLEXITY. A single-story, rectangular ranch layout is cheap compared to a multistory mansion with angles, bump-outs, varied rooflines and dormers. Few people whose life's goal is to own a log home choose a characterless box, but those who come close pay less.

How do these variables affect the two shortcuts?

SQUARE FOOTAGE. Cost per square foot isn't a guarantee but an average of custom-building projects in a defined area. A $250 going rate could range from $150 to $350. Square footage doesn't take into account the level of finishes (*see upgrades, above*). A 2,000-square-foot luxury western red cedar home will cost way more than a 3,000-square-foot southern yellow pine box.

PACKAGE PRICE. Assuming a 3x multiplier, a $55,000 package would equal a $165,000 home. Sounds good. But what's in the package? Contents vary. Basic kits contain just wall logs. Complete kits have — well, not to frustrate you even more, but companies define "complete package" differently. Some even sell both basic and complete packages. Add-ins can include windows, doors, stairs and other essential materials. If $55,000 is the basic kit, you might add enough to bring the "complete" cost to $120,000. The 3x variance is nearly $200,000.

Package contents vary, so do non-package upgrades. Two houses built from identical kits, but one has an asphalt shingle roof, the other slate. Consider the difference in heating and cooling systems. And who knows what you'll pay to have someone assemble the package.

Just because the ballpark figure you arrive at sounds plausible is no assurance that it's accurate or even close. If you want a realistic estimate, talk to a builder. Find someone experienced with building log homes on raw land, ideally homes that are of the same scope as your project. Show the builder your plans.

Get a list of materials included in packages from log-home companies you're considering. Anything your package lacks, you'll have to buy extra. Have your builder or a log-home company representative help you estimate these costs realistically.

Don't settle for shortcuts. By doing it the long way, you'll not only arrive at a valid estimate, but also spot plenty of line items in your detailed estimates that you can eliminate, downgrade or postpone to fit your budget. And if you haven't already figured out, costs vary, but budgets are fixed. **U**

ULTIMATE UPGRADES

JK Lawrence photos



Fancy fixtures are a sure way to add distinction to your log home, but they can also boost your bottom line.



Real stone fireplaces add authenticity but can be significantly more expensive than manufactured stone.



Custom cabinets top many home planners' wish lists because of the prominent role kitchens play.



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Ask Professor Rob

Can my brother-in-law (an experienced carpenter) and I build my log home by ourselves?

A: The answer is yes and maybe. It depends on who your brother in law is.

You can certainly build your own home. Some companies offer log packages that have some or all of the logs precut and numbered according to a plan that you can follow to assemble them correctly. Many manufacturers also have detailed construction manuals and even offer training courses and on-site technical assistance to help you get started right.

However, it's important to honestly assess your and your brother-in-law's skill set and capabilities. Just because you watch HGTV doesn't make you a carpenter. Could you assemble a new pickup truck that you bought as a kit? Some can, but most others can't.

If you are a good carpenter, though, and have the time, a good set of tools and a strong back (logs are heavy), then it's certainly something I think you should explore. Building your own home can give you a sense of pride and accomplishment that's really pretty awesome.

Good luck!

P.S. I used the fact of building my log home myself as an excuse to buy some really cool tools that I still have to this day.



Rob Clutter conducts half-day University sessions at the Log & Timber Home Show and other locations. For a class schedule and to register, visit the website: thelogandtimberhomeshow.com

Got a question for Professor Rob?

E-MAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
askrob@loghomeliving.com



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Plan to Save

Here are a few suggestions that can help you lower the final cost of a log home.

1 **Educate yourself.** The money you think you have saved in one phase may cost you in another.

2 **Do the work yourself**, if you have the time and knowledge. Thirty to 40 percent of the final cost of a log home is labor.

3 **Serve as your own general contractor.** Just keep in mind that you will need to hire and schedule all subcontractors. Also, some lenders will not approve loans unless a professional contractor is building the home or acting as builder of record.

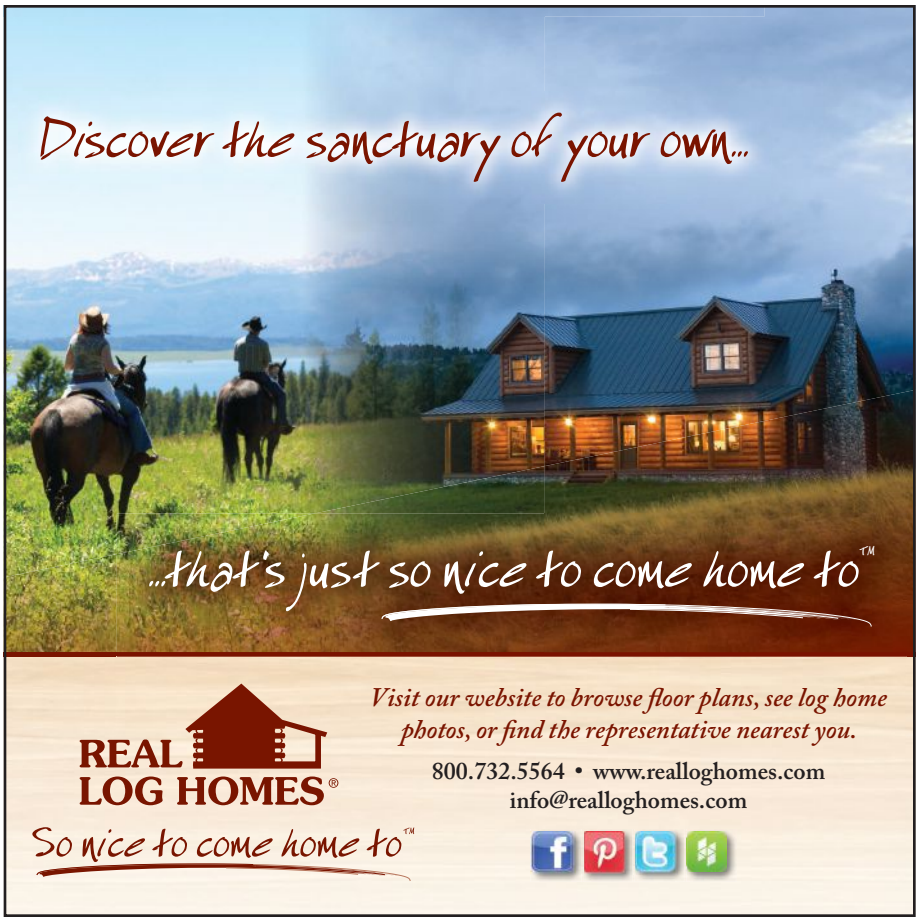
4 **When designing the home, keep it simple.** Corners and angles in construction mean time and money.

5 **Use modest finishing materials and amenities:** carpet rather than hardwood and vinyl instead of tile.

6 **Decks are expensive to build,** so make sure you will need the deck space you design for the home.

7 **Vinyl windows cost less** than wood windows.

8 **Design only the square footage that you need.** It's better to have a smaller home with the amenities you want rather than a larger one without them.







Cowboy Log Homes photos

PAYING ATTENTION PAYS OFF

6 cost-saving tips for your home-construction project. By Jim Cooper

Kitchen cabinets vary greatly in price, custom-made ones being the costliest. From a functional standpoint, however, attractive stock cabinets work just as well, and they'll save money you can use elsewhere.

1 PLAN FIRST. In the high excitement of planning a dream home, details sometimes get passed over. Costs for things like appliances, lighting and cabinetry might wind up getting postponed until after construction starts, making for unpleasant surprises. Make sure you've included costs for everything in your home before breaking ground, especially if you are acting as your own contractor.

2 AVOID CHANGE ORDERS. Change orders are how contractors deal with work not included in their original contract. This added expense may result from a planning oversight or unexpected conditions encountered on the job site. Because changes during construction often require removing or altering recently completed work, in addition to the change itself, change-order work often costs more than if the work had been part of the original plan.

3 STICK TO A SIMPLE FOOTPRINT, STANDARD DIMENSIONS AND RIGHT ANGLES. Basic building designs cost less. Excavation proceeds faster. Foundations and roofs can be completed more quickly, sometimes with substantially less material. Many building materials come in 2- or 4-foot increments. Building dimensions closer to these units result in less waste and less labor. Think square corners. Angles other than

5 ESSENTIAL LOG-HOME BUILDING TIPS

Savvy builder Jim Cooper advises how to ensure a hassle-free project.
www.loghome.com/5-essential-building-tips-from-a-pro/

right angles waste more material and require much more labor during construction. Reducing the number of corners, especially in solid-log buildings, can lead to substantial cost savings.

4 CHOOSE LOW-MAINTENANCE EXTERIORS. When cutting costs, consider more than just direct construction costs. Think of the ongoing maintenance that is a part of home ownership. By protecting log surfaces from sun and weather, porches or wide eaves can cut the frequency of exterior log treatment in half, saving thousands of dollars of maintenance cost. Metal roofs cost more than conventional shingles, but a shingle roof will need replacing several times during the lifespan of one metal roof.

5 INVEST IN EFFICIENT MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. Include high-efficiency mechanical equipment for heating and cooling your log home, and be sure your mechanical contractor sizes equipment properly. Insist on Manual J calculations, if your building codes don't already require them. Beware of any contractor who works from "rule of thumb." Heating and cooling systems are still undergoing dramatic changes, which affect both construction and operating cost.

6 POSTPONE EXPENSIVE FINISHES. If your budget is very tight, look at costs that you can defer. Inexpensive finish items can help keep construction costs down, while leaving the opportunity for upgrades later when your budget allows. For example, inexpensive sheet-vinyl flooring can be attractive and later serve as underlayment for a ceramic tile or slate floor. Inexpensive cabinetry can serve well until you are ready to splurge on custom cabinetry. Depending on design, you may be able to add decks and porches later. However, be cautious of changes that affect the structure of your home. Changing bearing walls, posts or beams is usually costly, as is work that requires a lot of demolition.

To get the most out of postponing elements of construction, anticipate them before construction starts. For example, consider the added thickness of tile or slate flooring even if you plan to start with inexpensive vinyl sheet flooring. If you plan to add a porch, include it in your blueprints, labeled "future porch." This way, building-code officials will be able to point out any structural concerns that could result in costly changes later. Also, you or your builder will be able to include bracing or structural framing in anticipation of the addition.

Construction-cost savings begin with careful planning and attention to detail. If you don't have a lot of construction expertise, discuss your plans with someone who does. Even if you pay for professional assistance, you may shave tens of thousands of dollars off project costs.

Jim Cooper, a former log-home builder and general contractor, is author of Log Homes Made Easy *and* The Log Home Project Planner. *He is a LEED Accredited Professional and Certified Passive House Consultant.*

Hit the Road

Most new log homes are built on undeveloped land. You'll need access for vehicles, materials and workers. That means a road. A clearing through the woods might seem like the solution, but an access road must handle traffic in all kinds of weather. A graded roadbed topped with gravel should do the job. It'll have to handle log deliveries, usually by tractor-trailer. If the site is especially difficult to reach, you can use a forklift to offload the logs and carry them to the site. You might consider establishing a staging area for logs and other materials at this unloading point and then using the forklift to deliver them as needed.

Local excavators and road builders can advise you on the best solution for temporary access. When construction is complete, you may use the temporary road as the base for your driveway or return it to a natural state and build a permanent driveway elsewhere.



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Make a Fireplace Pay Off



Even though fireplaces don't often serve their original purpose, towering stone chimneys and massive hearths are staples of log-home design. But they can also burn up a lot of cash. Consider their placement and how you will use them.

Artificial-stone fireplaces can be indistinguishable from real stone but at a third the cost. Skilled stonemasons can be hard to find and often charge a premium rate. Artificial stone installs faster and can look as good as the real thing. Installers are much easier to find.

In many areas, wood fireplaces are giving way to gas or propane models. Open fireplaces are gradually yielding to enclosed fireplace units. Glass-fronted enclosed units still let you gaze into dancing flames and feel the radiant warmth of the fire. However, they don't pull heated air from the room and send it up the chimney, creating a chilling draft. Wood fires require either a lot of elbow grease to cut, haul and stack firewood or regular visits by a firewood provider. Depending on the energy efficiency of your home, a wood-burning fireplace can cost considerably more to operate than a gas model. Wood burning also carries a housecleaning and maintenance premium that includes regular visits from a chimney sweep and frequent cleaning of ash and wood debris.

Consider combining the romance of a hearth with the energy efficiency of a woodstove (some of which actually use natural gas or propane). Efficient woodstoves equipped with glass doors still allow viewing the fire while providing enough heat to serve even larger homes. If you live in a remote area, a wood, gas or propane woodstove can keep you warm even when storms shut down electric power.

Find a Builder

A big challenge of building a custom log home is finding someone who'll build it properly. Log-home companies have developed expertly engineered building systems that require builders understand and follow log-stacking instructions to the letter. Even experienced log builders might be unfamiliar with certain companies' systems. Fortunately, many companies have detailed construction manuals that explain the finer points of their systems

Even better, more companies are playing a role in the construction of their homes by locating, training and certifying builders. A few have even set up subsidiary companies that provide construction services. These services are usually limited geographically.

If you're building farther afield or buying your log package from a company that doesn't provide construction services, your best bet is to check with the dealer who's selling you your new home. Dealers know who builds log homes in their territory and can recommend several candidates. Some dealers even build the homes they sell.

You're under no obligation to use any of these builders. If you decide on a builder who's new to log construction or your company's building system, remember that many log providers include technical assistance in the package price. Some even send crews to stack the logs to make sure they conform to their system. From this point, the regular builder takes over.









Wallstics.com photo

GLOBAL DECOR

Want to save money furnishing your home? Shop overseas online. By Joyce Standridge

Thanks to the World Wide Web, homeowners have opportunities to shop for bargains internationally.

No matter how generous your budget, who doesn't love saving money? That's dinero, euros, shekels, yen and dollars to save or spend elsewhere. It's also not necessary to journey to the pricey showrooms of Paris or Tokyo to couple quality with style. Here are a few value ideas you can find at a local international outlet or with your keyboard.

BOHEMIA. Just the name excites, but if your travel plans don't extend to the Czech Republic anytime soon, visit the numerous websites that specialize in Bohemian style. Because the furnishings can be kitschy, even fussy, use that trait to enhance your accents. The panache features not only gypsy-bright color, but also distressed edges, glass, mirrors and other elements that enhance wood's warmth. Log says you don't follow the crowd. Bohemian accents say you have fun on your own path.

MALAYSIA. Didn't know that the Malay Peninsula is a source for its own flair? Indeed, that tropical paradise has long contributed rich, dark wood, especially with a brilliant patina. Thanks to its abundant rain forest, Malaysia even has a timber resource board to ensure standards, and many artisans there hand-carve exquisite designs into the dense surfaces. One species, rubber wood, is environmentally friendly and grown on rejuvenating plantations. It is water-resistant but better for indoor use, as it can sun-bleach easily. Very competitively priced (especially for flooring), it allows homeowners to exhibit an uncommon, but renewable, wood.

NIGERIA. Africa has long been an exceptional source for brilliant color and unique design. Nowhere is that more evident than in the Akwete cloth woven by the Igbo of Nigeria. While it can be made from sisal, even the dyes for textiles are all naturally produced. Hundreds of motifs are used on the loomed fabrics, but new or unique designs are assigned an unwritten copy-

right. Thanks to the limited costs, the purchase prices for these patterned textiles are surprisingly affordable.

STOCKHOLM REGION. It's hard to miss Sweden's influence on current decor, but rather than sharp-edged furniture, think lamps. Spending so many winter hours in darkness, the Swedes appreciate beauty, as well as functionality, in lighting. Not surprisingly, the lines tend to be simple and sleek. Whether purchasing an import or just enjoying the influence, remember how important lighting is in a log setting, too. Thoughts of too dark interiors are banished when there is enough accent lighting; moving lamps around can also dramatically change a room's appearance.

GRAN CHACO. The sparsely populated region of Argentina is home to South American cowboys, as well as indigenous tribes. You needn't jump on a plane to enjoy its influence. While some homeowners want actual artifacts from the isolated region, many log-home owners can be just as satisfied employing Gran Chaco-style influence. Much as the American Southwest has added its own stamp to log-home decor, the gaucho look reaches all the way to our shores. A wee bit of research can inspire those who love the wide-open spaces with its richly woven textiles and the appeal of using natural elements to decorate. Remember, there is beauty in keeping it simple.

SIBERIA. No, your home should not take a cue from a gulag. But from Russia's frigid far north comes the reminder that for those who have limited financial resources, the focus has long been on singular, extraordinary pieces. In Siberia, it has often been religious icons featuring handcrafted wood or exceptional stained glass. Even without religious influence, creating a breathtaking focus within a room can be both cost-effective and thoroughly satisfying.

OCEANIA. It's almost impossible to impress an Aussie or Kiwi by just throwing down money. We can thank our mates on the other side of the world for reminding us always to make it simple, make it inexpensive and, for heaven's sake, take it outdoors. And if you can't because the weather isn't cooperating, then bring the outdoors inside.

Log-home owners are already receptive to nature's appeal, so what more can be learned? Because importing furniture was expensive and difficult for much of their early history, folks Down Under had to craft most of what they had. They learned to appreciate value and building things that will last. That means sometimes it is more cost-effective in the long run to invest in quality, initially higher-priced pieces that will serve a lifetime. U



Tktktktktk photo

INCORPORATE LOGS FOR CHARACTER

We know logs provide good looks while supporting the home, but don't discount the role of other logs in adding pizzazz to your interior design. Logs that have eye-catching natural features might be unsuitable for structural duty, but they can fit in as posts that help fill the space between stacked walls. Lacking distinctive natural features, these accent logs can even be carved to become works of art and sure-fire conversation starters.

SEE AND SAVE

How to buy the right windows for your home and for your budget.



Choosing windows is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a homeowner. Windows affect not only the look and feel of your home, but also its energy efficiency. Some log producers include a certain brand of window with their log package. Others leave the choice up to you. Either way, know what you're getting.

GLAZING. Windows have three major glazing options: single glaze, double glaze and triple glaze. Climate will influence your choice. For mild climates, a single-glaze window may provide all the energy efficiency you need at less cost. For harsher climates, investing in double or triple glazing will bring added comfort, and the higher sticker price will be made up with lower heating costs.

You can also choose how each glaze is tinted. Bronze- or gray-tinted glass reduces solar heat gain. It also reduces visible light, though, creating darker rooms.

FRAMING. Frames greatly influence window appearance and performance. Window frames can be made of one material or a combination of materials.

Aluminum is light, strong and durable, making it ideal for custom window design. Downside: It causes conductive heat loss, which decreases a window's overall energy efficiency.

Wood framing is a great choice for a traditional look. And from a performance standpoint, wood aids energy efficiency. The big drawback is maintenance. Wood must be protected from moisture to prevent warping, cracking and rot.

Vinyl is a versatile plastic with good insulating value. Vinyl frames come in a wide range of shapes and styles. They don't require painting and offer good moisture resistance.

Fiberglass frames offer the best energy efficiency. Fiberglass is a strong, durable material, making it ideal for large expanses of glass and virtually maintenance-free.

STYLES. Decide how you want each window to look and perform. Some styles are designed to let in natural light, some to take advantage of views and some to let in cool summer breezes.

Casement windows consist of one sash hinged to a side jamb. They usually open outward from the sill by a crank handle or slider bar. They offer good ventilation and are known for their weather-tight construction.

Double-hung windows feature two sashes that slide along side jambs from top to bottom. They give a traditional appearance and are easy to clean.

Awning windows feature a sash that pivots at the top. A crank handle opens the bottom outward and up. They suit damp climates because they open without letting moisture in.

Palladian windows have three openings. The central one is usually arched and wider than the others.

Picture windows are large and fixed. They're great for views but not for ventilation.

Bay windows are a composite of three or four windows that project out from the house. They consist of a large (usually fixed) center unit and two flanking units (usually double-hung or casement) angled to the wall. Bay windows provide great straight-ahead and directional views.

Slide-by or slider windows work like double-hung windows, only turned sideways.

Transom windows are small, usually rectangular windows on top of a window or door hinged to a transom.

TIP

Having lots of windows not only provides better views of your surroundings, but also by letting in natural light makes smaller homes feel bigger.

Daylight Delight



JK Lawrence photo

Natural light is a log home's best friend. It streams through the interior, spotlighting the logs, as well as other materials and furnishings, while affecting our moods, relationships, health and productivity. Incorporating the benefits of daylight into your log home's design can be almost as easy as flicking a switch.

Because logs absorb more light than drywall, it takes roughly twice the lumens to light a log home – but that doesn't mean you need to rely on more electric lights (especially during daylight hours).

Consider your home's orientation to the sun's path and how it relates to your lifestyle. Decide which areas need light at what time of day. If you are a morning person, take advantage of sunrise by placing your master suite on the east. To enjoy sunsets, site your great room on the west. To brighten rooms all day, face south. To soften the light, face north.

Adding daylight can also cut heating costs in the winter through what's known as "passive solar heating." Face the widest part of your home with the most glass southward. Inside, use masonry or stone floors to absorb and retain the sun's heat through the day, then radiate warmth through the evening hours.

Don't worry that a daylight-friendly floor plan means higher air-conditioning bills in the summer. Follow these "cool daylighting" strategies.

Three-foot overhangs to the south protect the home from intense sunlight during the summer. When winter arrives and the sun is lower, light falls below the overhangs and adds passive solar heat. Deciduous trees and shrubs planted near south-facing windows can also shade the home in summer months while still allowing passive solar gain during the winter.

Inside, you can **diffuse daylight deeper** into rooms by angling light against the ceiling, either with blinds or by placing windows close to the ceiling. Low-E windows, which have microscopic metallic coating on the inside, reflect radiant heat, keeping the sun's heat from entering the home in summer or interior heat from escaping in winter. They also prevent glare from interfering with your TV or computer screen.

To break up the appearance of all that glass, try **combining different types of windows**. Don't go overboard, though; mixing too many may make your home look jumbled. But simple combinations – like placing a curved awning window over a pair of casement windows – can boost your home's style. If privacy is a concern, opt for skylights in bathrooms, bedrooms and even walk-in closets (which may double as dressing rooms).

Choose an experienced contractor or designer to ensure a daylighting design that will work for your home throughout the year. Every building site is unique, so have your builder visit the site during different seasons to understand how the sun's path interacts with the topography.

Some builders go so far as to create scale models to test concepts of daylighting and sun control. If you're interested in daylighting design, get your builder involved as soon as possible – long before you develop construction drawings.



James Ray Spahn photo

THE DOWNSIDE OF UPLIFT

6 reasons why cathedral ceilings often fall flat.

By Mercedes Hayes

Soaring ceilings are almost standard for today's log homes, but they have as many cons as pros. Before you automatically go with the tall ceilings, consider their implications.

It's no secret that a cathedral ceiling is all the rage in log homes. I would venture to say that for resale, this kind of look sells the house quickly. A vaulted ceiling implies lots of windows, hence lots of light, which is at the top of everyone's list. There are many other advantages. A cathedral ceiling is undeniably gorgeous. You can set up the biggest Christmas tree you can imagine. And a large great room can hold plenty of furniture in different configurations. By definition, you have an open floor plan, which is also high on everyone's list these days.

But is a cathedral ceiling practical? In a nutshell, no. From construction to everyday living, there are tradeoffs that might not seem obvious at first.

1 COST. Right away, you are going to pay a premium to build a custom, hand-framed roof. There are no shortcuts; you will be using extra timbers, probably a tongue-and-groove ceiling and extra labor costs. The more angles to your roof, the higher the cost. Also, if your roof pitch is steep, the roofer is going to charge extra — especially if he has to bring in special equipment. And of course you'll want a big chandelier and probably ceiling fans (don't forget about all the extra lighting and wiring you'll need).

2 NOISE. A cathedral ceiling implies a loft. Most log homes have a loft that is large enough to use. It has great acoustics. In fact, you will hear every conversation, every TV show, every radio, and squeals and laughter whether you are in the loft or in the great room. So if you have a loft, make sure you also have a quiet room.

3 SPACE. If you have a two-story great room, you are going to have a big open space that could have been another bedroom or two. It's a lot of potential living space to give up. The other thing you will sacrifice is an attic. So all the items that might go into the attic (mechanicals and ductwork, not to mention storage) need to be placed elsewhere.

4 HEATING AND COOLING. Ceiling fans help move the air around the great room. But these big open spaces are difficult to control. Ideally, a return duct or two in a high place will keep the air moving around. Alas, because you have an open floor plan, you've sacrificed walls that normally carry the ductwork upstairs; hence, you may not have good airflow. You could oversize your mechanicals to make up the difference; extra zones are advisable. With all those big windows, do you have any that open for fresh air? If not, perhaps a skylight would help. You may not want to run your air conditioning in the spring or fall.

5 MAINTENANCE. If you have big windows, you may have to deal with broken thermal seals. The larger the window, the bigger the risk. Also, you may find that you can see but cannot reach the cobwebs — and if you have round logs, the dust will continue to accumulate. Oh yes, you can see it from the loft. Cleaning windows requires a big ladder (which you can't lean against the glass), as does replacing light bulbs. Are you afraid of heights?

6 APPRAISALS. This is not a big issue, but appraisers don't value your loft (or your open space) the same way they value a bedroom. You could have a big house with a big great room and two bedrooms, and you are going to take a hit on the appraisal. This usually doesn't matter unless you try to refinance or sell. Remember that initial expense? Just be aware that you probably won't get it back.

With all that being said, would I give up my cathedral ceilings? Absolutely not! But there are a lot of things we would have done differently (many that I suggested in this article, such as skylights). There are only two of us, so the noise factor isn't insurmountable, but if we were more numerous, I think that issue would have been at the top of the list. **U**

FLAT CEILINGS RISE TO THE OCCASION

The popularity of cathedral ceilings assumes that they provide the only overhead drama in a log home. That isn't true. Low ceilings can be equally appealing, especially when they feature log or timber beams. Whether smooth finished or hand peeled, beamed ceilings offer rustic elegance, provide coziness and prevent heated air from rising wastefully.



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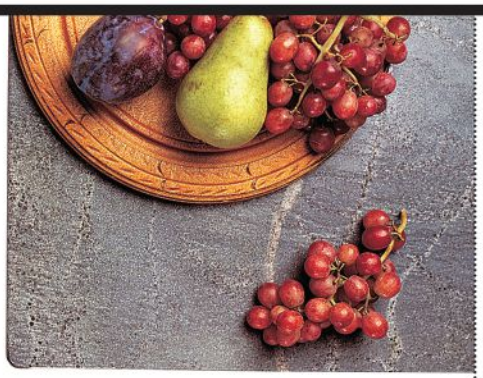


Sashco photo; OPPOSITE Ashfield Stone photo

If you're buying an existing log home, try to obtain a maintenance record to help determine whether new log treatments are compatible with old ones. Compatability is important; without knowing product chemistries, your only option is to strip the logs to bare wood and start from scratch. Before embarking on any remedial or preventive maintenance program for an existing log home, you should try to establish the home's history, whether by documentation or inference, so you can set goals and achieve them, whether you do the work yourself or hire a pro.

Jim Davis, a veteran of the log-home industry and the author of *Log Home Care and Maintenance*, suggests 11 questions to answer to guide you in making sure your new old home gets off to a good start.

1. **Who manufactured the log package?**
2. **What is the log species?**
3. **Are there any additions to the original structure?**
4. **What were the materials used in previous maintenance applications?**
5. **Who built the structure?**
6. **How old is the structure?**
7. **Are there any existing problem areas? Obvious rot, decay or insect infestation? Coating or sealing failures? Air or weather infiltration?**
8. **Are there any imminent problem areas?**
9. **What do you want the structure to look like when you're done?**
10. **What kind of budget are you working with?**
11. **Do you have a priority list for the work?**



Easy-care Countertops

Kitchen and bath countertops can be anything from wood to ceramic tile or concrete. Laminates are probably the most underrated since they are often associated with cheap or builder-grade construction. However, there are many high-quality laminates that offer a wide range of looks. In addition to cost advantages, laminates aren't as hard or cold as concrete or tile.

Custom poured colored concrete countertops are striking and can be made in interesting and unusual shapes. For a rustic countertop, consider wood. Our ancestors used untreated wood for many counter surfaces. They maintained them by scrubbing them frequently with a stiff brush and letting them dry. Unless you enjoy scrubbing, a coating of several layers of polyurethane will keep counters dry and stain free.

Granite, marble and synthetic materials like Corian also can be used for countertops. For a unique look, consider making countertops from slabs of stone. Flagstone, soapstone and slate are a few of the natural surfaces that make striking countertops. If the stone is porous, you'll want to seal it to avoid rings and stains.

Randy the Handyman

Are there maintenance benefits to using reclaimed wood for, say, flooring?

A: Reclaimed wood conveys a sense of history. It's often old-growth wood, which is stronger and longer lasting than new wood. It's also well seasoned and stable.

Because it has become worn over time, reclaimed wood comes already distressed. There isn't much you can do to it that will damage it or mar its look. Even if you decide to have it re-planed to freshen the look, it will still show its character.

Speaking of character, among available reclaimed wood species are chestnut, some with wormholes caused by the bugs that attacked the trees after the great blight of the 19th century; heart pine, made from beams and joists; and milled barnwood, which mixes such species as hemlock, spruce and red and white pine. All offer rich colors and grain patterns.

Expect to pay more for reclaimed wood than for new. There are companies that specialize in it and have good sources. Or you might find timbers or planks yourself at a farm auction. Wherever you acquire it, I recommend hiring a pro to install it, especially if you're replacing other flooring.

Got a question for Randy the Handyman?

E-MAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
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ENTRY POINTS

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5



6

Resource Guide

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greatriverdoor.com

Specialty Woodworks Co.
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Timber Valley Millwork
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7



8



9

1. Mahogany door with hand-carved panels by McDonovan, starting $14,000, custommade.com; **2.** Double door with dark mahogany finish, rolemodelmovement.com; **3.** Custom door with historic design, artfactory.com; **4.** Knotty alder door, 8'x3' with insulated sidelights, $3,695, nicksbuilding.com; **5.** Party Crasher carving on distressed pine, $5,645, greatriverdoor.com; **6.** Carved moose door, artfactory.com; **7.** Screen door with howling wolf, $1,195, woodlandcreekfurniture.com; **8.** Mediterranean door from reclaimed Douglas fir, realcarriagedoors.com; **9.** Custom carved door, $16,800, summithandcrafted.com.

Free Information Guide



See our special *Dream Home Showcase* insert on pages DH 1-DH 47

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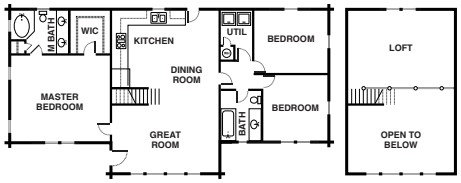


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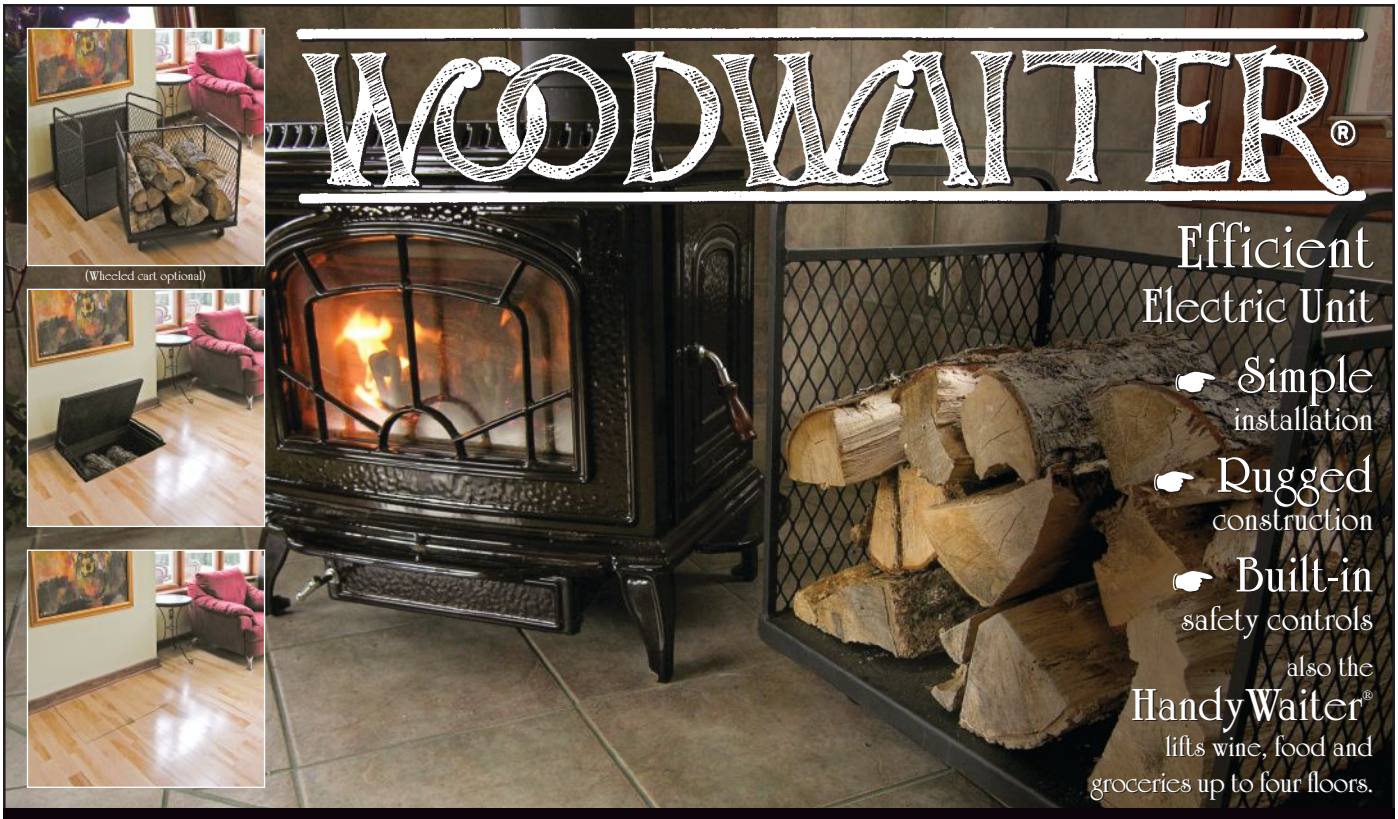
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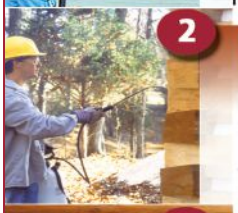
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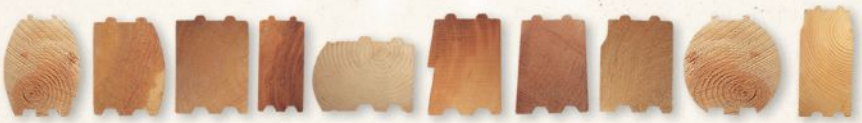
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